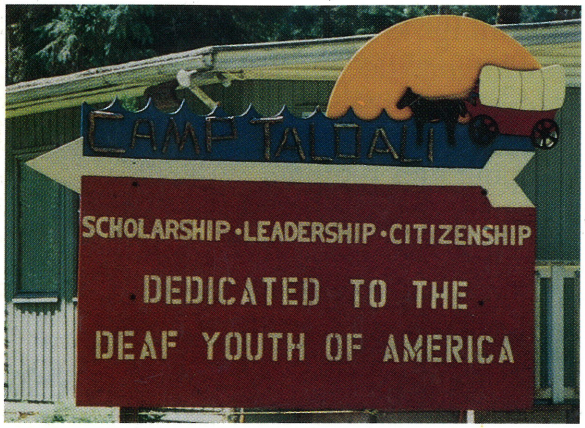
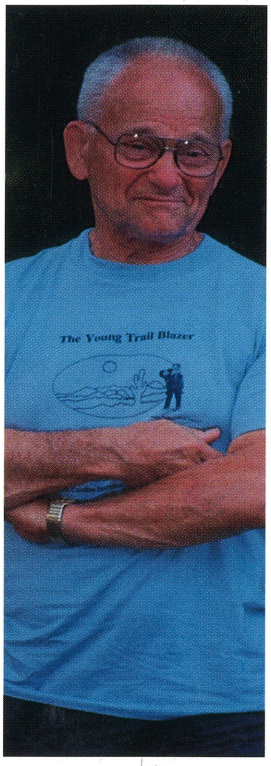
September 1998

Deaf Life

$2.50

SPECIAL YLC ISSUE





Youth Leadership Camp celebrates its 30th anniversary

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

I am pleased to bring you this special issue—which has been written primarily by young Deaf people, participants in the Youth Leadership Camp program, themselves. The YLC recently celebrated its 30th summer. We are marking that milestone by turning our September issue over to the YLCers themselves. Shortly after the 1998 session began at Camp Taloali in Stayton, Oregon, Director Dr. Frank R. Turk appointed two YLCers as Editors-in-Chief. After I arrived at the YLC on July 20, I gave a presentation on "Great Deaf Americans." I also sat down with the two Editors and discussed the particulars of putting together this special issue. The Editors gathered letters from other campers (for our special "Letters" feature), and reported on the highlights of the 3-1/2-week session.

Since its founding in 1968, the YLC has served as more than just another summer camp for deaf kids. As its name suggests, the emphasis is on developing and refining leadership qualities. The YLC challenge includes participation in group activities, learning to become a responsible member of a team, carrying out assignments on tight deadlines, while developing self-confidence and self-respect, enjoying the "Deaf family" experience—and having fun, too. Does it work? Read the students' stories and judge for yourself.

I'm a proud YLC alumnus, by the way, a member of YLC '76. During my stint as a YLCer, I edited the camp newsletter, **The Daily Drum**, and here I am!

Matthew S. Moore

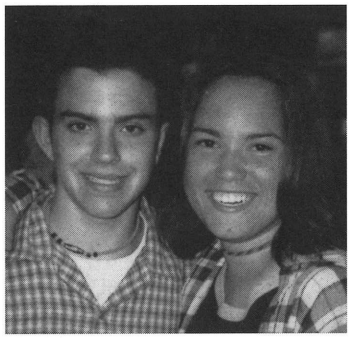
ABOUT THE COVER

COVER DESIGN BY MATTHEW S. MOORE
PHOTOS: RUSSELL WEST/YLC

Since its founding in 1968, the Youth Leadership Camp has provided hundreds of young Deaf people with an education in the dynamics of leadership—teamwork, democratic, parliamentary, and journalistic practice, competition, and striving for excellence. This month's issue has been largely written by participants in the 1998 YLC—high-school students who are now putting into practice the lessons they learned this past summer. Two of them have taken on the additional challenge of editing a special issue of **Deaf Life**.

Images from YLC '98 on our cover are: (clockwise from top left) a Camp Taloali sign, Director Frank R. Turk, Sr., two swimmers, YLCers on the beach, and the log shelter built by YLCers for a popular camping/fishing resort as a community-service project.

EDITORS' NOTE



Dear Readers,

We recently completed a highly profitable and memorable summer at Youth Leadership Camp in Stayton, Oregon. It was the time of our lives. What we learned—leadership, respect, and teamwork—will always remain with us. The people we met will always be our brothers and sisters; the metamorphosis we all went through was incredible. We began as innocent creatures, anxious of what the YLC program would bring, and we finished as one big, happy family, striding firmly towards the future.

The 1998 YLC program was possible through joint sponsorship of the NAD, NTID, and Gallaudet University. We campers appreciated their support more than words can describe, and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

In the aftermath of all the plane rides home and the furious E-mails to each other, something beautiful has emerged from the tears of farewell, something the YLCers of '98 will cherish forever: our new family, all of us standing together and looking brightly out at the future, with love in abundance.

We could sit here for hours and tell you what YLC means to us, but you still wouldn't fully comprehend our appreciation and love for YLC. As YLC alumni, we heartily encourage high-school students to apply and thus enter the greatest family possible. We all now have a world of confidence in our future, thanks to YLC.

In gratitude to YLC, we have tried to showcase our month in Oregon as best as we could. It is our hope that when you are done reading this issue, you'll be able to make an educated guess at why 67 campers returned home after the program, significantly transformed and standing tall, as never before.

We were honored when we were presented with the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to become Editors-in-Chief for **Deaf Life**. Given the opportunity to write a whole magazine about YLC in such a widely-read magazine as **Deaf Life**, we used our new-found leadership skills from YLC. This experience has taught us a bit about the magazine business, but we know that without the help of Matthew Moore, Frank Turk, and the support of our fellow campers, we would have not been able to do this. We thank **Deaf Life** for providing us with such an invaluable experience.

Allison Polk Donald Slate

Allison Polk, Maryland, and **Donald Slate**, Massachusetts

VOLUME XI, NUMBER 3

Deaf Life

DEAF LIFE (ISSN 0898-719X) is published monthly for $30.00 per year ($42.00 outside of the U.S.) by MSM Productions, Ltd., 1095 Meigs St., Rochester, NY 14620. Periodical postage paid at Rochester, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **DEAF LIFE** c/o MSM Productions, Ltd., Box 23380, Rochester, New York 14692-3380.

The entire contents of **DEAF LIFE** are copyright ©1998. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. For more information, write to **DEAF LIFE.**

PUBLISHER
Matthew S. Moore

CO-EDITORS-IN-CHIEF
Matthew S. Moore
Linda Levitan

COPY EDITOR
Linda Levitan

PRODUCTION MANAGER/ WEB SUPERVISOR
Charles F. Bancroft

ART DIRECTOR
Matthew S. Moore

CONTRIBUTING ARTIST
Tony "Mac" McGregor

OFFICE ASSISTANT
Diane White

COLUMNISTS
Michele Listisard
Peggie Parsons
PROTO-X

CONTRIBUTING WRITER
Raymond Luczak

ADVISORY BOARD
Dr. Bernard Bragg
Julianna Fjeld
Bill Graham
Alice Hagemeyer
Dr. Robert Panara
Dr. Frank Turk

The Publisher and Editor-in-Chief are not responsible for the opinions and statements made by either Editors or Contributors to **DEAF LIFE**. The Publisher and Editor-in-Chief reserve the right to edit all letters and articles. Publication of advertisements in **DEAF LIFE** does not in any way constitute our endorsement of the services or products advertised.

FROM OUR READERS

✏ *In this issue, our regular "Letters to the Editor" are replaced by letters written by YLCers to the two Editors, Allison Polk and Donald Slate, while YLC was still in session. These letters are published exactly as they were written, with a few minor touch-ups in punctuation, and misspellings corrected.*—**Deaf Life** Editors

"We give our love and thanks"

If you ask any YLC alumni, "What organization has made the biggest impact on your life?", most of them will answer, "YLC!" That's how life-changing YLC can be. The name, Youth Leadership Camp, basically says it all. It is a program for those who are young and has the potential of becoming a great leader. I myself cherish the times I had at YLC when I *really* thought about where I am in my life. Frank Turk, Gary Olsen, and many others often, by their words, made me stop and think, Am I going in the right direction? I have learned about Deaf Rights and how we should stand up for ourselves. These Rights have made me a prouder Deafie, because now I truly know that the law is on our side. YLC also helped me realize my place in the world of leadership and advocates. I have found my weaknesses and strengths. I have seen some campers change from an egotistical talker to a doer. Many things have happened at YLC for the better, and ALL of us have benefited from that. In closing, we have to give our love and thanks to those who has contributed to this camp. :-)

Elisa Abenchuchan
Florida

P.S. ~ I tried my best to write this during lunch. I had no time to *really* write. If you don't think this is good enough, then don't print it. My feelings won't be hurt! :-) Thank you for asking me to do this. ✌

YLC in capitals

First of all, I want you to know that YLC has given me the best summer I have ever had. What does YLC mean to me? Why I think Youth Leadership Camp would be great for the deaf youth of today and in the future.

YLC is a camp that has left a big fat file in my brain that can't be deleted. The teachings from prominent guest speakers and staff who dedicated their time. The warmth and closeness among all of us at the YLC seemed to never evaporate. The well-built structure of this camp. The friends. That's all what means so much to me.

I think the YLC program is the best leadership program for the deaf youth because of its carefully planned activities such as guest speakers from different states in America come and tell us their rich experience and how to get there, which enriches the deaf youth's motivation to succeed in this hearing world—how to work with them. Most of all, this camp teaches its campers how to help others succeed with the skills that they have developed through this intensive educational program which is supported by this excellent deaf organization, NAD (National Association of the Deaf), and sponsors. YLC will give the best of the best deaf program for the deaf youth. I'm telling you that it is entirely based on my experience—seeing my peers grow. Without a supporting cast, you will walk the rocky road.

So, that's why I strongly encourage the deaf youth to go to YLC, to grow.

Amy Blades
Washington

YLC has given me the best summer I have ever had.
—Amy Blades

"One big bright sun"

To the Editors:

I want to share my perspectives of Youth Leadership Camp with both of you. From Day One to the last day, I deeply enjoyed the experience. I learned and absorbed everything about leadership & teamwork there is available in the world. There is no way that a person can go to YLC and not feel anything.

We all feel so close in a brother/sisterhood way. Camp Bowl, Crisis Day, Mini-Olympics, and everything that occurred during YLC all fit in one big sun that is so bright and strong that it can't help but spread its rays of knowledge to the world and prove that YLC is a truly precious and valuable experience!

Thank you,

Tawny Holmes
Alabama

The bottom line: impact!

Dear Editor,

I went to a camp for one summer at Stayton, Oregon. Youth Leadership Camp is the unique camp for chosen future leadership. At the beginning, I was overwhelm with the recognition of the National Association of the Deaf because NAD's reputation had an impact on me. During the session at YLC, I realized that I missed out many things during my high school year. I decided to push myself and get involve. It came true after I was voted as YLC president. I am on yearbook committee and help out with **Daily Drum** newsletter.

The bottom line is that YLC **do** have an impact on everyone. The campers would never forget YLC memories because they are hard to burn away.

Thank you for your time to read this.

Nancy McAnlis
Pennsylvania

"A mental and physical pilgrimage"

Dear Editors,

My name is Thea Cabral. I am 15 years old and from Massachusetts. I just went to Youth Leadership Camp this summer. The outcome of this summer at YLC was a big change, a whole new experience, and discoveries about ourselves. If it weren't for Frank R. Turk, the director of YLC of 30 years, then I don't know who we all would be now. Frank R. Turk was the one who inspired me among other YLCers to become future leaders. He taught us YLCers many ideas and motivated us to change "From Head to Toe." He encouraged us to make our brains useful by putting our physical muscles in our head. Subtracting from the ego and adding the pride to ourselves was one way to begin our journey at YLC. This wonderful man took us on a pilgrimage, mentally and physically, all in one place, YLC. This leader is the best example set for YLCers. He showed us the world of Leadership by giving us many examples of good leaders to speak at seminars and workshops. We learned through those deaf people who spoke to us, the staff and through Frank R. Turk.

At the end of YLC, we YLCers understood what had happened to us, what we had learned and we thanked everyone tremendously.

We will never forget this summer.

Thea Cabral
Massachusetts

FROM OUR READERS

"Realizing what I was missing—and where I belong"

I thought I had it all when I moved to suburban Lakewood, Colorado three years ago. I had lived in Illinois since I was born and attended Illinois School for the Deaf for four years. Just as I was ready to enter high school, my mom got a job transfer to Denver, Colorado, leaving all my dreams and hopes behind. It wasn't long before until I adjusted to living in Colorado. I had it all. A family, home, sports that I love, a part-time job, and an excellent education.

One thing I've always felt to be missing, which was one of my values, was deaf culture. I've been attending a mainstreamed school with a deaf program population of only ten to fifteen students. Most of them haven't yet been exposed to the deaf world. It meant that I had to move my feet and do some teaching and make a few changes. With the help of other students, we set up a TTY pay phone, and helped to set up two of the many elective classes, a deaf teacher came along and made the deaf program a lot better and educational. In the meantime, the faculty and students in the school became more aware of deafness. Improvements appeared in the deaf program, but there were still areas that needed improvement. I couldn't do it myself. I had the help of other students but it still wasn't enough. I realized that I had done my best and put a great effort in making my school better among deaf programs. I was glad things were going well.

The only thing that was missing was "my" being a part of the deaf socialization. There weren't many deaf kids at my school and I was constantly spending time with the hearing people. I missed being around the kids at Illinois School for the Deaf. I realized that I was behind in learning the "slang" signs. I thought there was nothing I could really do to expand the population of deaf kids.

Most of my friends went to YLC and highly encouraged me to do the same. Of course I knew I HAD to go. This was my only chance. I knew I wanted to go for two reasons: one, to learn of many ways to help my community and school, and two, to be a part of the deaf world for a month! Just exactly what I wanted. I am so glad I went.

Words cannot describe how much I enjoyed and learned at YLC. I'm all pumped up for the school year and I want to teach everybody about the deaf culture and help the clueless freshmen. I want to do as much as possible. YLC has also made me realize where I really belong . . . in the deaf world. I value my culture so much and I will try to do my best to make that a big part of my senior year so I will not have anything missing this time. YLC has helped me bring out a smile and spread it around to the school and people with pride! I will have it all when my culture is a big part of my daily life. I will never forget this memorable experience. Thank you, YLC98ers, I would've never done it without you guys!!

Krissy Piorkowski
Colorado

"It's unbelievable how much YLC changed me!"

All my life, I was a natural leader in my school. I took a lot of leadership roles in different organizations and clubs. Sometimes, I take the role as a president when I am not officially the president. I felt that my lead-

From Day One to the last day, I deeply enjoyed the experience. I learned and absorbed everything about leadership & teamwork there is available in the world. There is no way that a person can go to YLC and not feel anything. YLC is a truly precious and valuable experience!

—Tawny Holmes

ership skills were great and don't need a lot of improvement or more development.

When my advisor told me about Youth Leadership Camp (YLC), I found it quite interesting. She and several friends of mine, who are ex-YLCers, convinced me to go to YLC. I thought that I will learn a little bit about leadership in YLC because I had the skills. So, I was more interested in making new friends and socialize with more people at my level. I took for granted that I knew everything and YLC made me open my eyes to the fact that I am young and have a lot more to learn.

When I arrived to YLC in Stayton, Oregon, I knew only a few people and I felt nervous around the fellow campers. As time went by, I couldn't believe how fast we all became close and bonded. I felt like all of the staffs, campers, and I were a big family! I couldn't believe how much I have learned about leadership. I was fascinated with the different speakers who came to YLC to give us workshops. It was a challenging month for me because my leadership skills rose a lot. I learned more about teamwork, different kinds of leaders, and many more.

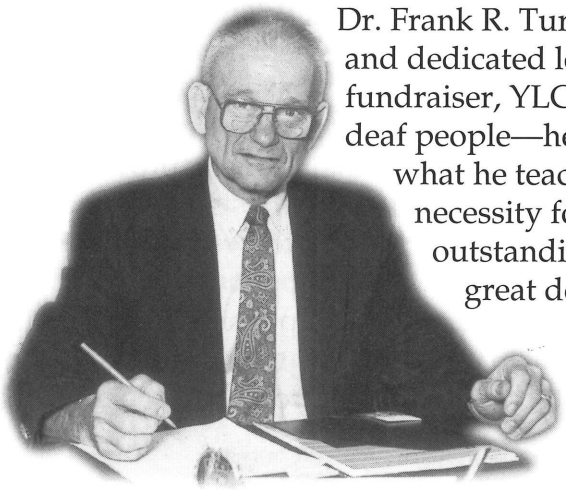
I will use the leadership skills from what I have been learning in YLC to help my school and the deaf community. It's unbelievable how much YLC changed me in only three and half weeks. There is a special place in my heart for YLC, only!

I want to express my gratitude to my mother and family for loving and being supportive of me. My superintendent and my advisor for their encouragement to go to YLC. Lastly, but not least, to Dr. Frank R. Turk for making me the person I am now! He's like a father to me.

LONG LIVE YLC '98!

Emmanuel Shwan
New York

Tough guy with a winning attitude.

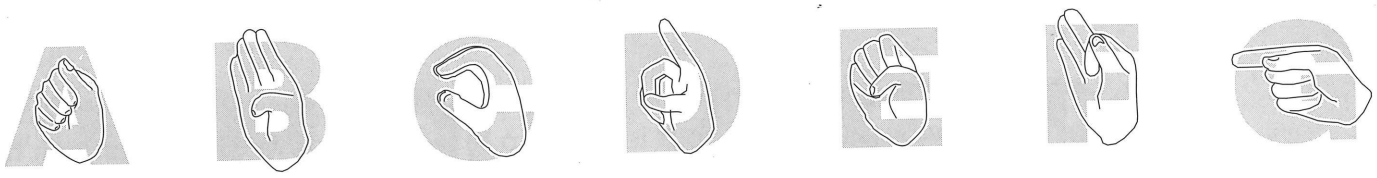


Frank R. Turk

Dr. Frank R. Turk, Sr., is one of our most dynamic, accomplished, and dedicated leaders. Teacher, coach, administrator, superintendent, fundraiser, YLC co-founder and director, tireless advocate for young deaf people—he believes in the rewards of hard work, and lives by what he teaches. He says, "We cheat ourselves when we avoid the necessity for hard work, struggle, and sacrifice, our three most outstanding of all lifelong teachers!" He's one of the many great deaf Americans featured in

GREAT DEAF AMERICANS:
THE SECOND EDITION

To order your copy, please send a $27.95 check (includes postage) to DEAF LIFE Press, 1095 Meigs St. , Rochester, New York 14620.



FOR HEARING PEOPLE

Q: What kind of summer program is best for a deaf teenager?

A: The Youth Leadership Camp is not the only summer program for young deaf people. We gladly admit that! A number of schools for the deaf sponsor good local summer programs, as do Gallaudet University and NTID. Not all summer programs for deaf kids are sign-language-based, either—e.g., Clarke School's oral program for deaf kids and their hearing siblings, which emphasizes speech-communication skills.

The National Theatre of the Deaf has a legendary summer program, the Professional Theatre School, for those with a yen for the performing arts. There are also Deaf-accessible science, computer, sports, and art camps. There is variety, and there are numerous choices available for a range of age groups.

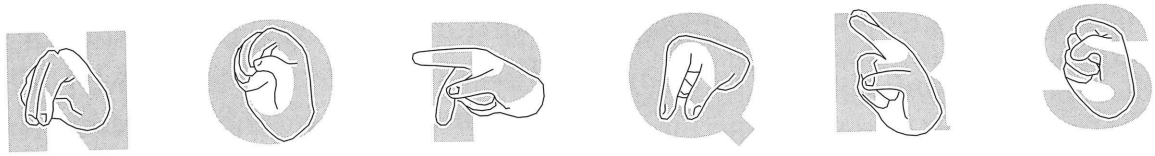
But the YLC, we feel, is one of the best, if not THE best, for developing leadership skills in deaf teenagers. Some deaf children are natural leaders (that is, they have the personality traits that can make for effective leaders, if these traits are nurtured), but it can be difficult to develop those traits, especially if the child's major energies are spent in struggling to understand what's going on, in surviving from day to day. A high-stress, low-access environment isn't conducive to developing leadership qualities.

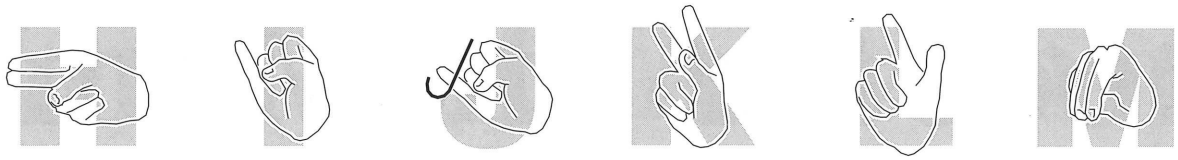
One of the most positive aspects of schools for the deaf and magnet public-school programs is that deaf kids have a community of peers they can communicate freely with. Growing up within this community, they don't experience the frustration of having to cope with language/communication/understanding barriers. There is usually (although not invariably) good teacher-student dialogue, too. All of which is excellent for developing self-confidence, at least in communicating. The family environment may or may not be supportive, but if the school fulfills the need to communicate openly and enjoy unimpeded access to the teachings, the deaf student will thrive—socially, at least. And many young Deaf people who don't thrive academically nonetheless have rich and fulfilling social lives.

Deaf students in mainstream programs are often isolated from their deaf peers. They may have little or no contact with other deaf kids or successful Deaf adults (teachers, counselors, coaches, staff members, etc.). They may even be "the only deaf kid in school." For some deaf kids with good athletic skills, this isolation may not present an insuperable barrier. They participate on their varsity teams and win respect by their athletic prowess. They become the "sports-whiz" success stories we read about in the newspapers.

But supposing your child isn't terribly sports-oriented? Supposing you have a deaf kid who

DO NOT PHOTOCOPY
WITHOUT WRITTEN
PERMISSION
All rights reserved.





DO NOT PHOTOCOPY
WITHOUT WRITTEN
PERMISSION
All rights reserved.

ONLY

wants something more than athletic competition or the social whirl? That's where a program like the Youth Leadership Camp can make a difference. In a program such as the YLC, emphasis is placed on learning, teamwork, decision-making, Deaf mentoring, and practicing leadership skills. Best of all, deaf kids are with other deaf kids all day long, with Deaf adults directing the program. For some, it can mean temporary sensory overload, even culture shock. They quickly adjust and plunge into the enriched communication environment. And they make the most of it. Shy, reticent students typically gain new self-confidence.

Granted, there are some deaf kids who don't thrive in a camp atmosphere. Their social skills may be so poor that they can't learn to function as part of a team. But we feel that participation in a program such at YLC benefits them, too. It's better for deaf kids to learn to work and play with other deaf kids as equals than have no contact with them at all.

Particularly important are the friendships made at these camps. Since the YLC attracts teens from across the nation and beyond, it provides a matchless opportunity for deaf kids to meet and become friends with other deaf kids from different parts of the country *and* different backgrounds. Although the daily activities are highly structured, there is time to chat, to compare notes, to discuss and share experiences. Deaf teens discover that they aren't alone, that their frustrations and joys aren't unique, that other deaf kids have also experienced what they're going through—with their families, friends, and schools.

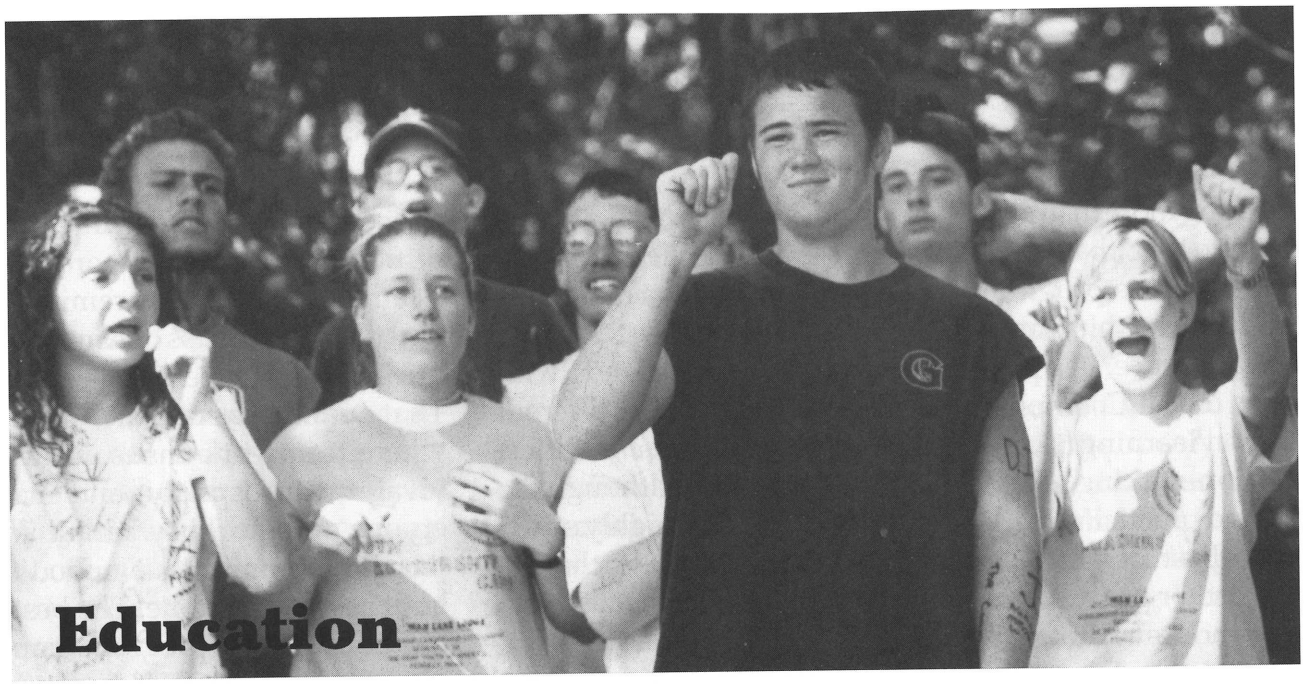
Schools and camps present different sets of challenges. Camp is different from school in that the daily pressures are largely absent. The expectations may be higher. Even though a program such as the YLC is competitive, it's an adventure. Campers have more opportunity to do things on their own, to shape their own experience, to take the lead. The more they put in, the more they get out.

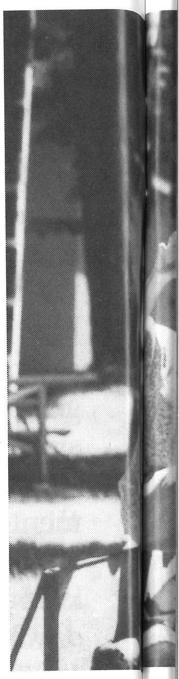
As Dr. Frank R. Turk told Allison Polk, "There is something extraordinarily special about this experience which is difficult to describe in words—a family togetherness reminiscent of the greatness of America during its pioneering years." That quality was community—where teamwork ensured survival and prosperity, and everyone was so busy building their community that nobody had time to feel alone. The best kind of summer programs can give deaf kids a taste of community, the richness of shared communication, a family-like feeling of belonging. Small wonder that former YLC participants, after returning to their separate schools across the continent, are eagerly maintaining contact via E-mail. One summer spent in a good program can have immediate effects and lifelong repercussions. It's an investment we wish all parents of deaf children could make.

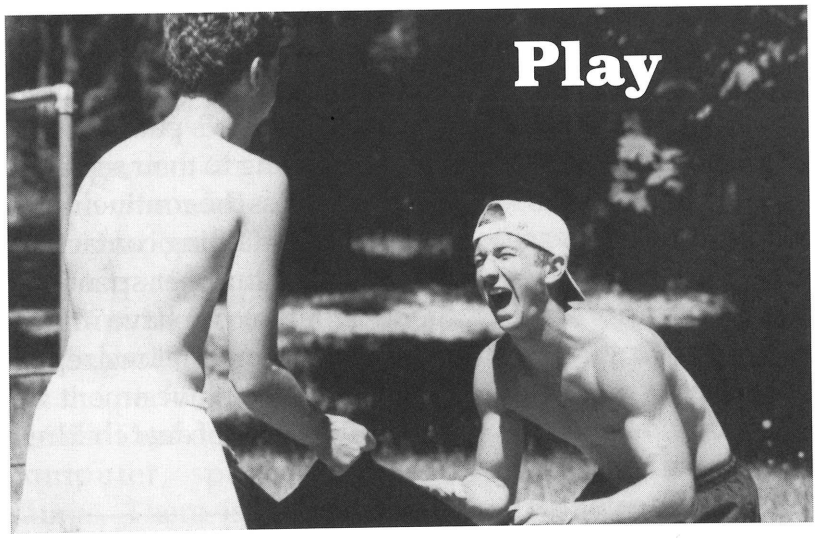
Have a question about
Deaf people
and their culture?...
Write to:
FOR HEARING PEOPLE ONLY™,
Box 23380, Rochester, NY 14692-3380.

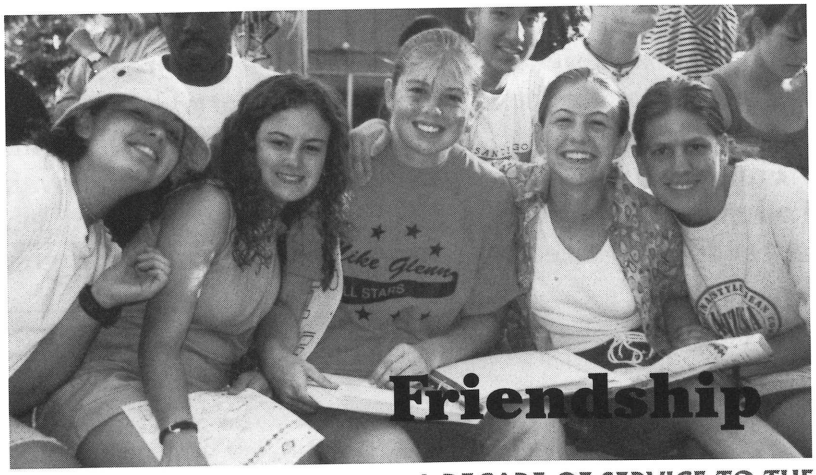
All rights reserved.

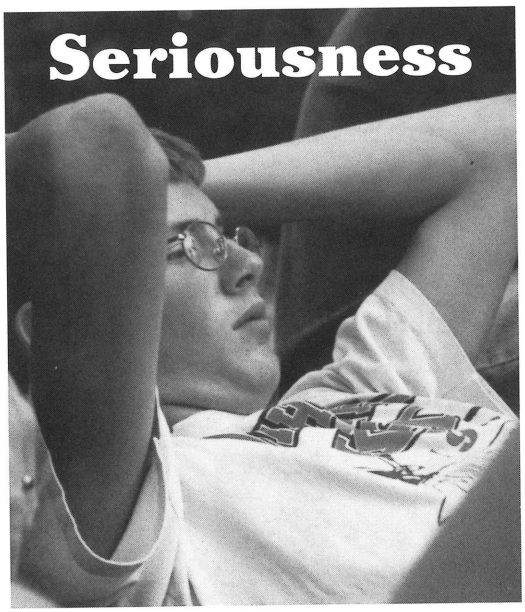
"Shoot for the Moon":

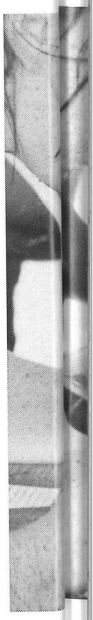












': Our YLC Adventure

The Best School Ever

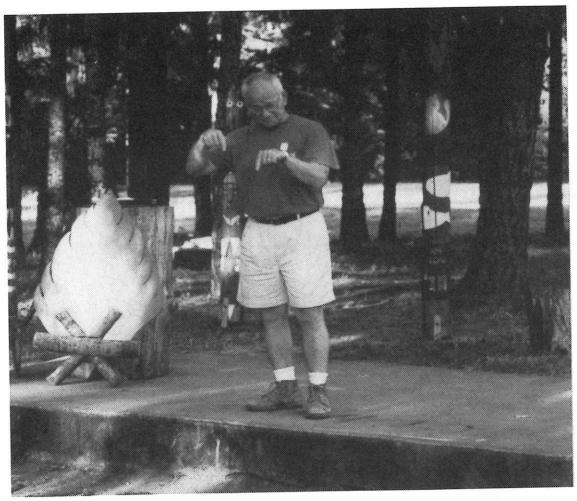
In a rustic camp setting nestled in a small town 16 miles east of Salem, Oregon, 67 high-school students gathered with their spirits high. They came from as far as Hawaii and Canada, and as near as Washington State, for one purpose: to attend the fabled Youth Leadership Camp (YLC), jointly sponsored by the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), and Gallaudet University, July 1-24, 1998, at Camp Taloali, Stayton, Oregon.

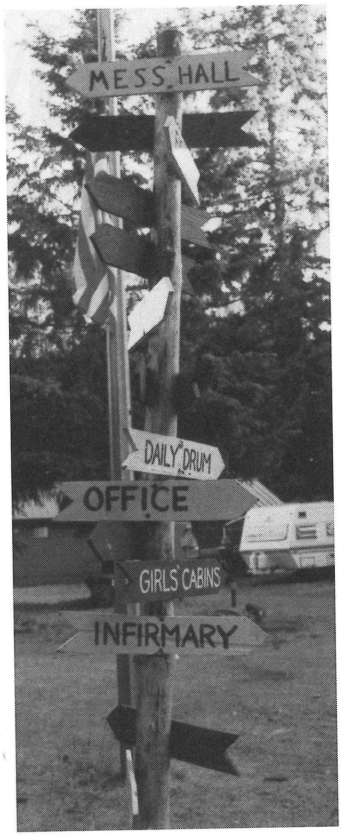
They came with only a vague idea of what YLC had to offer, and most came only because a YLC graduate they'd met encouraged them to apply. Upon arrival, they were told they'd been accepted to the best school ever and were about to be educated from head to toe. When they left at the end of the three-and-a-half-week session, they left smarter, stronger, and ready to grab their places in the competitive, ever-changing world.

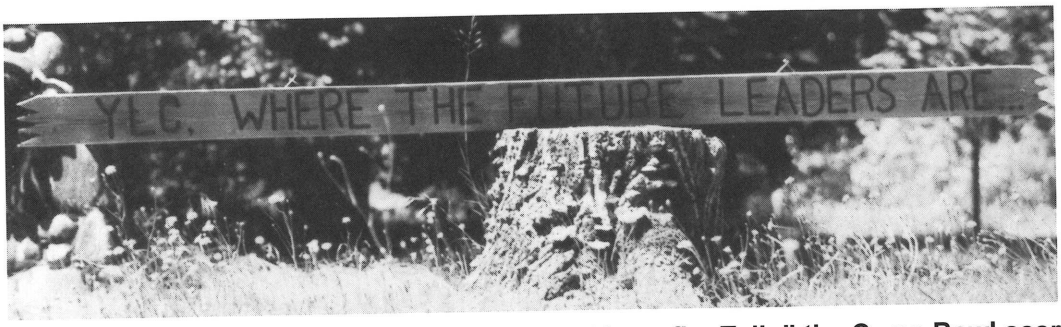
The Tradition Continues

YLC celebrated its 30th anniversary this year, its 9th in Oregon. Co-founders Gary W. Olsen and Frank R. Turk gave YLC its start in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, and then moved the program to Pengilly, Minnesota, 1970-1988, and Camp Taloali, 1989-present. Says Turk: "YLC was established to develop and motivate young deaf and hard-of-hearing people to utilize their potentials to the fullest extent—*on their own*—as the persons that they are meant to be. This is achieved by offering rich opportunities for leadership development with emphasis on literacy, Deaf culture and heritage, language, current issues, group dynamics, team building, outdoor activities, and much more.

"Gary Olsen and I were inspired to establish the program because the job of developing and motivating students to perform to their capacity was and still is too big for the schools to do alone. It takes a whole village to educate a successful student in today's competitive and increasingly impersonal world. Accordingly, the YLC program serves as the school's 'textbook helper' in







Clockwise from left: Frank Turk giving a "Campfire Talk;" the Camp Bowl scoreboard; and YLC signs.

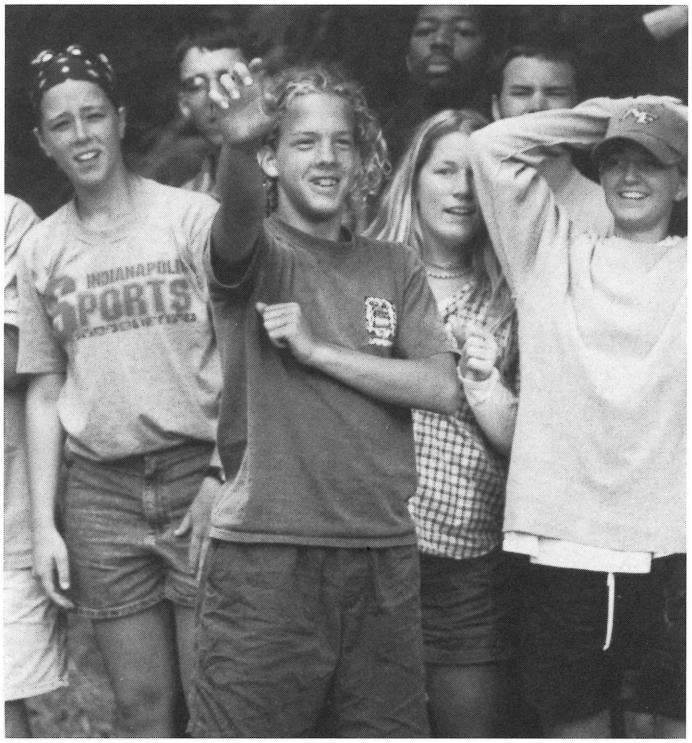
the areas which the school has neither time, manpower, nor funds to provide."

Nancy Rarus, another prominent figure in the history of YLC, illustrates Turk and Olsen's inspiration more figuratively: "I wanted to show deaf kids that they could shoot for the moon." Rarus' involvement in YLC began in the early 70's when Olsen recruited her and her impact on YLC has been evident to this day.

The YLC alumni roster includes all four of the "Deaf President Now" Movement student leaders, and many others who have become productive citizens and leaders in the nation. Turk says, "The most rewarding experience has always been and always will be that of changing the lives of those who participate in the program specific to the best possible American life for all deaf and hard-of-hearing people." Among the former YLC participants with doctorates are Bobbie Beth Scoggins, President of USA Deaf Sports Federation and Director of Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Jeff Lewis, Professor of Counseling, Gallaudet University; Marty Florsheim, Principal, Public School 47 in New York City; Kathy Jankowski, Director, Pre-College Programs, Gallaudet University; and Steve Weiner, Dean, Gallaudet Undergraduate Studies.

Turk describes his goals for the future of YLC as (1) to find ways and means by which the state associations and YLC may more effectively work together in bringing to all deaf and hard-of-hearing people the best possible American life, and (2) to expand the program to include activities that are specific to development of critical thinking, analytical thinking, political skills, self-sufficiency, and self-esteem—the "tools of life" so necessary for positive participation and productivity in the world of higher education and workplace.

In an effort to further reinforce the future of YLC, the NAD has set up a fund-raising project called the "Tree of Life." This project is geared toward four essential programs: Multipurpose Retreat/Training Facility, State Association Training/Reciprocity, Parent-Consumer Partnerships, and Youth Leadership Development. The goal for the latter category, for example, is $1 million. When this goal is reached, the accrued interest will be used to sponsor youth programs such as YLC, PeeWee NAD, Jr. NAD, Collegiate NAD, and academic-technologically gifted groups. The NAD has many ideas for these programs, but the funds are not available for them. Says Turk: "Hope-



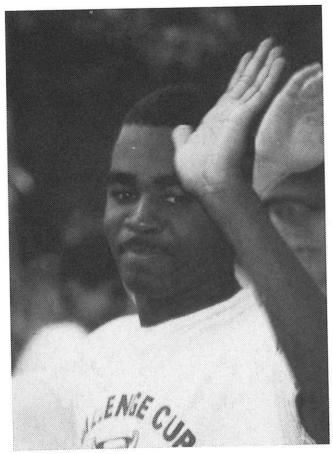
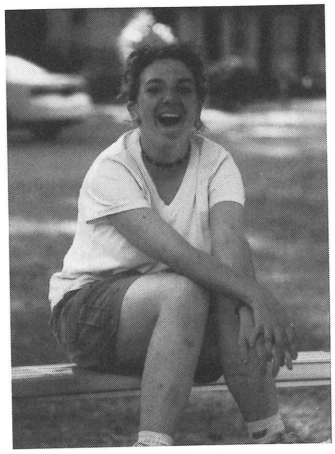
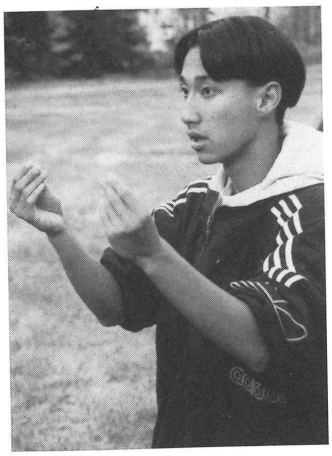
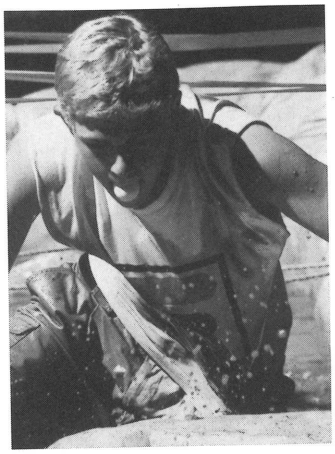
The Camp Bowl was an exciting competition in which each team earned points by correctly answering questions about a variety of topics, from sports to Deaf history. It was an entertaining way for YLCers to learn about world personalities, events, history, and popular culture.

fully, this Youth Leadership Development category will reach the $1 million mark in the not-too-distant future, so that we may start implementing new programs to improve the quality of life for our deaf and hard-of-hearing youths." Currently, the Youth Leadership Development category has collected the most funds—by far.

Rarus, a strong advocate of the Tree of Life project, has this vision for YLC: "I want YLCs in fifty states countrywide. Each state needs its own program."

For 38 years, deaf and hard-of-hearing adults have toiled with sacrifices and struggles to give YLC the prestige it has today. Of this distinction, Turk says, "I hope that the young people being entrusted to our care appreciate our work by doing their level best in taking advantage of the opportunities for the future which we provided . . . the opportunities which were denied us adults during our formative years." He emphasizes the value and need for training youngsters to persevere with a positive attitude. "If only they would understand that attitude is everything. Their happiness in life; the success they make through YLC—all depends on the attitude they have toward the rare opportunities being presented to them.

"If we wish for a change and cannot accept the

right attitude toward the steps which must be taken to make that change, there is little hope. But if we can visualize the type of objective which would make us extremely happy, and can see enjoyment in every component making up that objective, we are letting ourselves in for a most thrilling experience."

Sample Schedule

6:45 Calisthenics
7:15 Breakfast
8:00 Workshop 1
9:45 Canteen Break
10:00 Workshop 2
11:00 Camp Bowl
12:00 Lunch/Announcements/Mail Call
1:00 Class 1
2:00 Class 2
3:00 Canteen Break
3:15 Class 3
4:15 Recreation
5:15 Shower
5:45 Dinner
6:45 Fireside
7:30 Evening Program
8:45 Canteen
9:00 Camp Council
10:00 Announcements/Point System
10:45 Retire to Cabins
11:15 Lights Out

The Identity Fireworks

Once campers had gotten their bearings, they were split into four groups—their families for the next month. Given a week or so to get acquainted with each other, they were assigned the task of naming their groups. The staff had to approve the names and the reasons for choosing those names. The four groups soon found it more challenging than they assumed. The first group, "Redwoods," was approved after the second attempt, explaining the similarities between their group and the ever-growing trees. "Coals" succeeded next, claiming the same properties as a red-hot fire that always has the potential to keep going. Two groups failed and were given additional time to christen themselves.

July 4th was a beautiful day at nearby Lincoln Beach, and a welcome break from classes and camp food. Campers spread out, checking out the different stores and restaurants, and then in the late afternoon, reunited on the beach. There, "Nucleus" emerged as a group name, trumpeting the group's central bond. The second yet-to-be-named group, however, kept getting turned down until their sixth attempt, "Deep Impact." The name was finally claimed after several challenges and reflected the characteristics of the group, which tended to succeed through perseverance.

After Deep Impact made its debut, shouts of triumph exploded all over the beachside, welcoming the group to the YLC family. Amid firecrackers and sparklers, campers and staff shared the meaning of Independence Day. The experiences shared varied from individual to individual, with Canadians and a Dutchwoman speaking about their countries, and one director telling how it wasn't until the emancipation of slaves that he truly celebrated Independence Day.

Under the darkening sky and bursts of color, every camper hugged each other, saying "Happy Independence Day!" Many claimed that it was the best, most meaningful experience ever.

FRUSTRATED WITH YOUR CURRENT OPERATOR SERVICE FOR THE DEAF?

YOU'LL LOVE SPRINT'S NEW TTY OPERATOR SERVICES...

Sprint is pleased to offer a new operator service for our deaf, hard-of-hearing, late-deafened adult and speech-disabled customers. You can now reach operators 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And, our operator service program provides you support via TTY, so you can easily:

- make operator-assisted calls to virtually any location, domestic or international;
- charge calls to a calling card, bill calls collect, third party or person-to-person, or charge calls to a major credit card;
- use directory assistance to receive phone numbers or information; and
- place calls, arrange billing and provide immediate credit for wrong numbers dialed.

It's easy to reach us! Call today: **1-800-855-4000 (TTY).**

Sprint®

Leadership is Learned

The YLC program is designed to convince the individual students of their true potential as human beings—to teach them what they are, and what they can do and become. Turk calls this "self-actualization process, much of which is implemented through exposure to successful deaf and hard-of-hearing role models from a wide area of leadership and concerns." Turk describes these role models as "those to whom the youngsters are psychologically responsive and receptive for guidance—those who unconsciously understand and deal directly with the youngsters themselves, not the subjects, activities, or things—the ones who used to be what the young people are, who felt the way they are feeling, and who saw things the way they are seeing them."

To implement this role-model philosophy, campers attended two workshops each day focusing on essential aspects of being a leader. Each seminar lasted an hour. Some of the workshops centered upon skills a leader needed, such as knowledge of "The World of Technology," by Paul Singleton; "The Art of Negotiation," by Kelby Brick; "Constructive Feedback," by Myra Yanke; and "Advocacy," by Dr. Mary Malzkuhn. Others provided an opportunity for campers to analyze themselves, as did Dan Timlen with his Myers-Briggs Trait Inventory (MBTI), and Dan Brubaker's "Personal Mission Statement" workshop. All were very informative, as were Matthew Moore's "Great Deaf Americans," Janet Maxwell's (Ms. Oregon) "Bridging the Gap Between the Deaf and Hearing Communities," and Suzy Rosen's "Empowerment Seminar," which focused on Federal laws, primarily the Telecommunications Act and the ADA. Campers were given handouts and quizzed later during the Camp Bowl. 'Knowledge is power" lessons that the guest speakers taught will last a lifetime.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Everything you need under one roof!

Superprint *Pro80*™:
Bigger paper, bigger keyboard, bigger display and more in this new TTY!

Potomac Technology has everything for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, including:

- **Ultratec TTYs**
- **Assistive Listening Devices**
- **Audio Loop Systems**
- **Signalers & Alerting Systems**
- **Hundreds of Books & Videos**
- **and much more!**

Call for a FREE Catalog

800-433-2838 (V/TTY)

Please send me a FREE catalog full of exciting new products!

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone (V) or (TTY): _____

Potomac Technology

One Church Street, Suite 101 • Rockville, MD 20850-4158
(301) 762-4005 (V/TTY) or (301) 762-0851 (V/TTY)
(301) 762-1892 (FAX) • www.potomactech.com

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

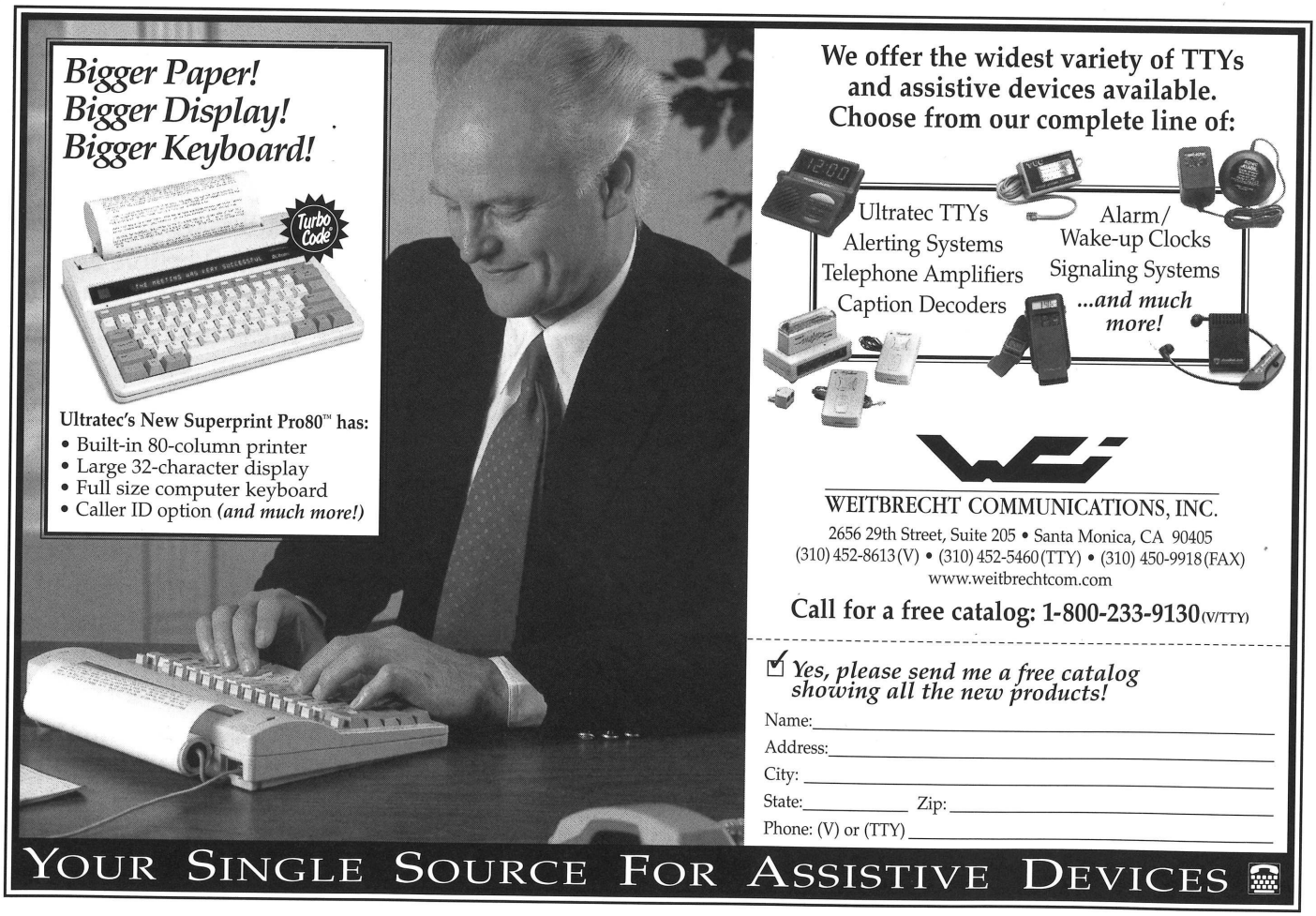
The School of Discovery & Survival

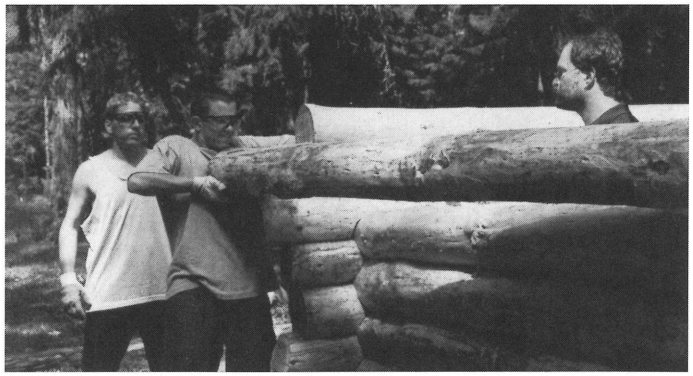
In addition to the morning seminars, campers attended three classes in the afternoon: Camp and Home/School project, Discovery, and Outdoor Education. While one group worked on the **Daily Drum** newsletter, the other three rotated for an hour each in the afternoon.

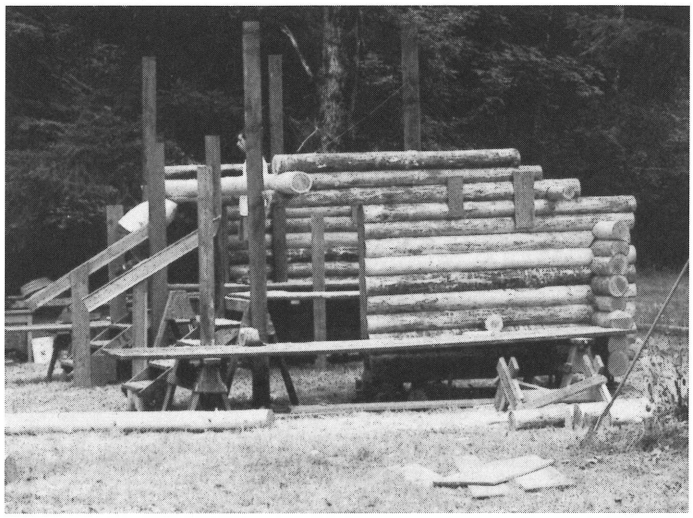
The Camp and Home School project gave the campers opportunities to improve the campgrounds or to produce rustic gifts for guests. As a special class, campers also seized the opportunity to discuss issues such as the interpreter's code of ethics.

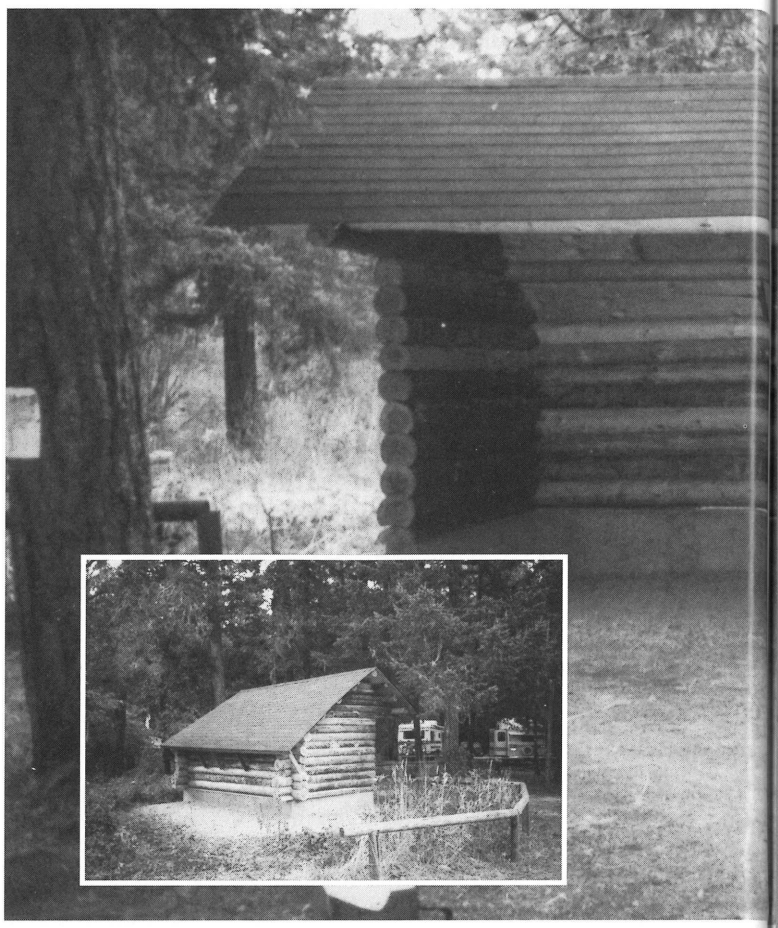
Discovery, a favorite of the campers, was a challenging venture. Trust, communication, and teamwork were taught via activities such as the "spider-web" and a tangle of ropes suspended between two trees. The objective of the "spider-web" (an interlaced webwork of ropes) was to carry each camper through one of the openings in the web without touching the ropes. Overcoming challenges such as this enhanced group commitment and solidarity.

Outdoor education served two purposes: to provide an opportunity for volunteer work on a log shelter (see next page), the YLC's gift to nearby Fishermen's Bend Recreation Park, and to teach wilderness survival skills. "Survival skills" included proper attire, practical packing for hikes, building a fire with only a few matches, constructing simple sleeping shelters, and nutrition, skills which were implemented during a hiking trip. Campers profited much from each class, particularly the competitive spirit as the four groups scored points for their participation.


Bigger Paper!
Bigger Display!
Bigger Keyboard!
Turbo Code
Ultratec's New Superprint Pro80™ has:
• Built-in 80-column printer
• Large 32-character display
• Full size computer keyboard
• Caller ID option (and much more!)
We offer the widest variety of TTYs and assistive devices available. Choose from our complete line of:
Ultratec TTYs
Alerting Systems
Telephone Amplifiers
Caption Decoders
Alarm/ Wake-up Clocks
Signaling Systems
...and much more!
WEITBRECHT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
2656 29th Street, Suite 205 • Santa Monica, CA 90405
(310) 452-8613 (V) • (310) 452-5460 (TTY) • (310) 450-9918 (FAX)
www.weitbrechtcom.com
Call for a free catalog: 1-800-233-9130 (V/TTY)
Yes, please send me a free catalog showing all the new products!
Name:
Address:
City:
State: Zip:
Phone: (V) or (TTY)
YOUR SINGLE SOURCE FOR ASSISTIVE DEVICES







Helping Hands

(adapted from an article by YLCers Donald Slate, Darlene Tropp, and Lisa Valenti for **The Oregonian**)

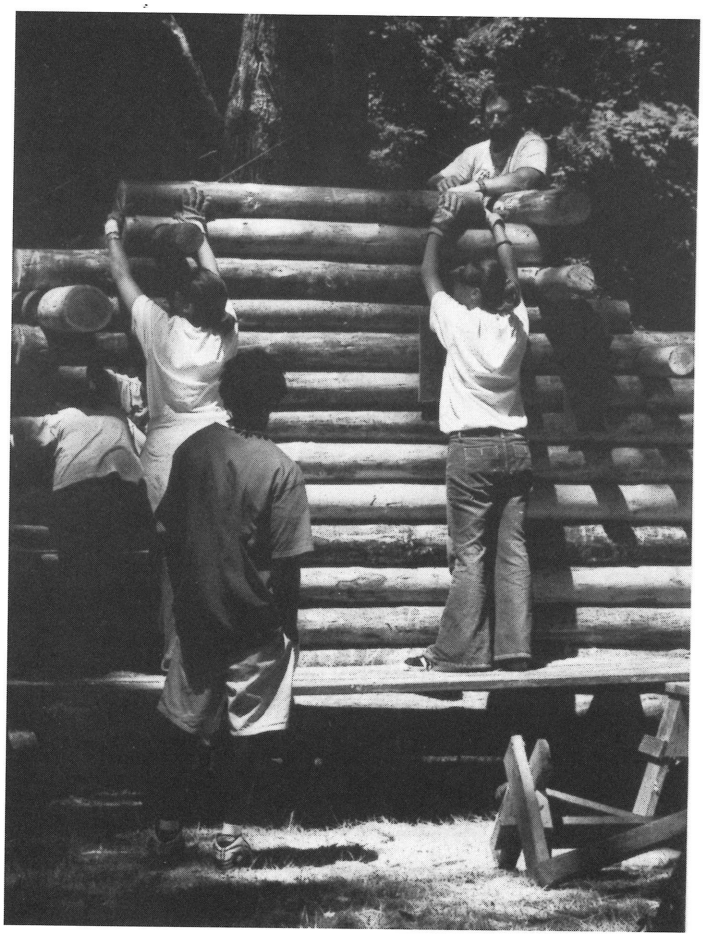
If you happen to pass Camp Taloali during the afternoon, chances are you will see many young deaf people working on a log structure. This is the first time in YLC's 30-year history that they have committed to such a wonderful volunteer project. The campers are building an 8' x 15' log shelter to be donated to the Bureau of Land Management's Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site near Mill City, Oregon, the state's popular fishing and camping site.

The 67 campers from 32 states learn leadership, teamwork, and survival skills. They are split up into four groups: Redwoods, Coals, Deep Impact, and Nucleus. Each group works on the shelter from 1:00 to 4:15 p.m., rotating every hour. Some even work on it during their free time.

YLC's main purpose in building the shelter is to understand the importance and value of community service. Camp Taloali has rented its campgrounds to YLC for the past 9 summers, and the campers thought it would be nice to reciprocate by giving something back to the community.

The downed trees came from Bureau of Land Management property 40 miles from the camp. Construction began on June 29 when five workers from the BLM, along with 16 YLC staff, cut down 25-30 Douglas Fir trees, measured to size, and brought them to Camp Taloali. About 45 logs were loaded in a trailer. It was hard work, and two trips were made. They worked from sunrise to sunset.

Campers arrived on July 1, and work began immediately on the shelter. After receiving instructions, they peeled off the bark with draw knives and bark spuds. The logs were then marked using a transfer scribe, trimmed with a chainsaw, fitted together with wood chisels to form walls, and notched at the corners using a similar process. Everyone—campers, staff, visitors, and Camp Taloali staff—participated with enthusiasm to ensure the shelter is completed, labeled, disassembled, and moved to its foundation at Fishermen's Bend Park before the end of camp on July 24th.



The preparation and building of this handsome log shelter was a highlight of YLC '98. Students, working in teams, did most of the work. Left: a back view of the finished shelter.

The campers have used a variety of tools such as log dogs (to hold logs in place while measuring), wooden mallets made from oak, levels, hammers, peavies (bark-peelers), and log carriers. Everyone wore safety equipment such as gloves and glasses on-site. Campers also learned how to lift properly.

They have also been learning about nature. To determine the age of the trees, campers studied a variety of logs and found that the average age is 26 years. Each ring represents a year, but each has a different diameter due to its growth during that year. For example, if the tree gets lots of rain and sun it will get a jumbo ring; a year of drought results in a smaller ring.

Frank W. Turk, Jr., affectionately addressed as "Frankie," is the project coordinator, assisted by YLC Outdoor Education staffers Dawn Birley and Russell West, both from Gallaudet. Frankie came up with the log-shelter idea last winter when talking with his father, the YLC Program Coordinator, about how much he yearned to build one. Twenty years ago, Frankie was with the Minnesota Young Adult Conservation Corps, and learned how to build shelters. He built dozens of them in Northern Minnesota State Parks. Since then, he has dreamed of building another log shelter and teaching others how to do it. Frankie was invited to come to YLC as Gallaudet's contribution to the YLC. He contacted Hal Hallet, a BLM official based in Washington, D.C., who provided the name of Scott Abdon at the Salem, Oregon office. Abdon, with assistance from other BLM associates, J. Grant and Tom Parker, then got the project rolling for the YLC program.

This project has many potential benefits. YLC campers will go home knowing they did a commendable deed for the community and for the citizens of the United States. BLM has one less problem on their hands, and campers from around the country will now have a shelter at Fishermen's Bend. Dawn Birley said, "It was fun, and hard work, but it was worth it." Senior Turk covered it all when he said, "This is a beautiful community-service project."

The Beat of the *Daily Drum*

Among many things, the YLC placed heavy emphasis on writing skills. To polish their skills, every group published the YLC newsletter, **The Daily Drum**, for 5 days. Campers composed articles on guest speakers, national news, and other camp activities. **The Daily Drum** was published daily and distributed to campers and staff.

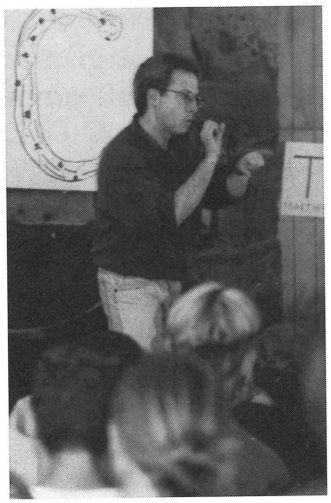
Each group had the opportunity to choose their own Editor-in-Chief, who directed the project with minimal assistance from staff. Campers also produced a **YLC '98 Yearbook**. They were responsible for its layout, articles, profiles, and superlatives.

The **Daily Drum** office was located in the smaller of a 2-room building, with no air conditioners. We had two fans, which did not contribute much to our comfort. There were only two computers for 3 staff members and 17 campers! We even sweated just *trying* to think up stories.

Three hours were allowed to complete the **Daily Drum**, but we hardly ever made it by the deadline of 5:30 for dinner-time distribution; we usually finished around 9:30. We originally did layout work on a computer, and had to wait for everyone to complete typing before starting it. Several days later, we decided to go back to the old way, which was to do the layouts manually—cutting out typed articles and spreading them on paper. It changed the whole thing, and the deadlines were met thereafter. It was a good, educational experience, and a great way to develop a strong bond between us all.

The Power of Campers

The Camp Council, run entirely by campers, was one of the highlights of YLC. Every week, a new slate of president, vice president, and secretary was elected by the congregation. Every night, from 9 to 10, the campers debated a variety of topics and voted on them. These topics included a new YLC mascot, water activities, a YLC flag, and others. As Council President Ryan Kelly said, "The Camp Council trains campers on the parliamentary procedures, such as making motions and the election of committees and officers."



***Deaf Life* publisher Matthew S. Moore (YLC '76) was one of several guest speakers.**

Nightlife

Every night at 6:45, all campers were found at the Fireside Council, anxiously seated around a huge bonfire, to listen to the wisdom of experienced folks. The presenters basically spoke about the secrets of their achievement in the world of work and higher education. Suzy Rosen talked about her experiences traveling the world; Dawn Birley introduced the sport of Tae Kwon Do and her dream of making it to the Olympics; and Glenn Lockhart's subject was a cross-country bikeathon.

The four competing groups took turns making

Hearing aid

The GM Mobility Program now reimburses UP TO $1,000 for vehicle "alerting devices" which may especially help drivers who are deaf or hard of hearing. Devices such as emergency vehicle siren detectors and enhanced turning signal reminders — which flash red when a siren is sounded or your turn signal is left on.

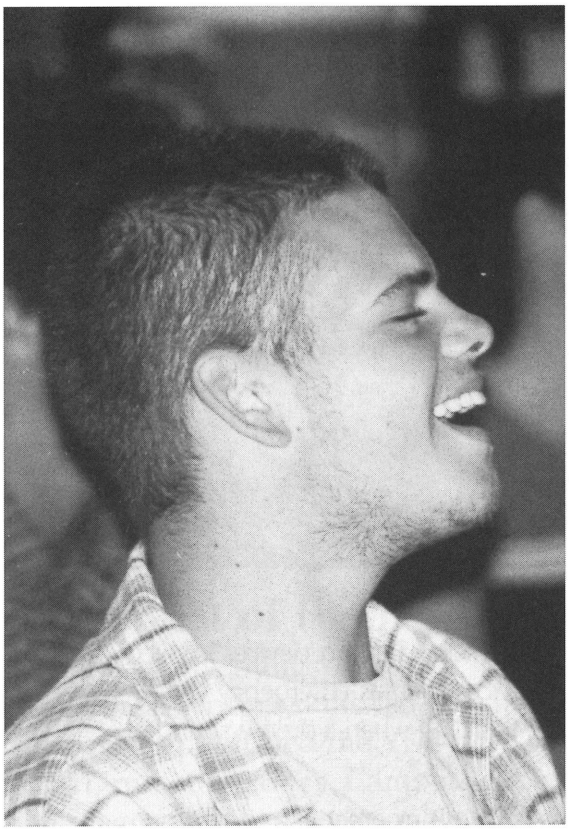
HOW TO QUALIFY. If you are a driver and your hearing loss is 30 dB or greater, and you purchase or lease a new GM car, van, or light truck, you are eligible for reimbursement for such add-on devices up to $1,000 — alone or when combined with other mobility adaptations under the GM Mobility Program.

WANT TO KNOW MORE? Pick up our brochure "Alerting Devices for Drivers Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing" at your local GM dealer. Or contact the GM Mobility Assistance Center at 1-800-323-9935. Text Telephone (TTY) users: 1-800-833-9935.

GM MOBILITY℠
PROGRAM
FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

CHEVROLET • PONTIAC • OLDSMOBILE • BUICK • CADILLAC • GMC

for GM drivers



a fire for the evening as part of the point system. Unfortunately, the campers did not always succeed, but with time and experience, they became better.

Evening Program was the fun part of the day. It came immediately following the Fireside Program, with activities such as "Actionary," a game derived from Pictionary, which was modified to suit the groups; a Sadie Hawkins Day; four days in which each of the four groups made up a game; and a Gong Show.

Searching for a Successor

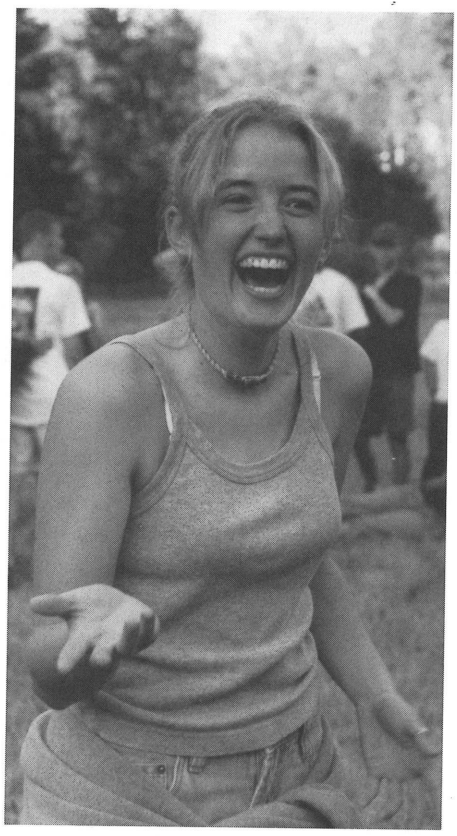
This year, for the first time in history, an innovative training program was implemented—a Camp Director-In-Training System. Eight candidates, four from Gallaudet University and four from NTID, were selected to "audition" for director of YLC in 1999. Each of them became Assistant Director for two days, and then rotated into Director for another two days. The candidates were Jack Busenbark, Adele Eberwein, Terry Giansanti, and Maureen Yates (GU); Debbye Byrne, Diana Cho, Brian Mayer, and Marcus Sylvester (NTID). They performed the normal responsibilities involved in the managing and operation of the camp program. This experience qualified them as future YLC directors. The objective of the training program was to develop a pool of outstanding candidates for the position over a reasonable period of years, "rather than to continue the frustrating experience of combing the nation year to year to find one or two qualified person or persons to run the program," said Turk.

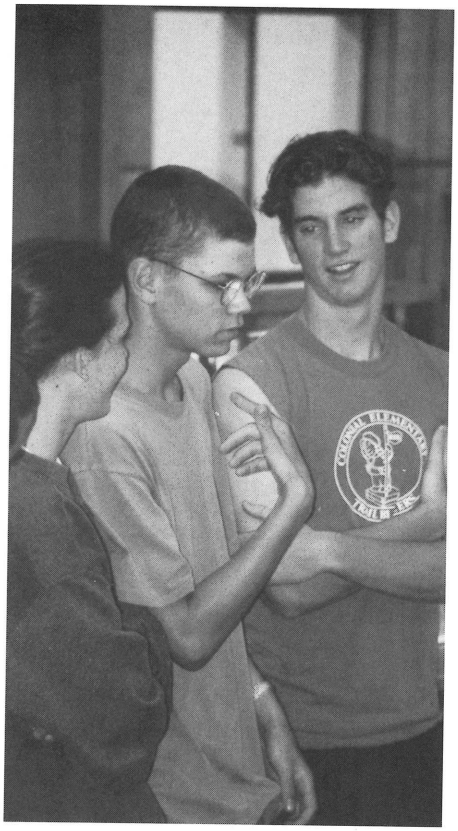
"This experience serves not only to qualify them for the job, but also to make it possible to select the following year's Camp Director in early fall to start planning for the forthcoming program."

Crisis Day

One day, the normal schedule of YLC was put aside for a special all-day event: Crisis Day. The two words, "Crisis Day," had been spoken many times before, but no one knew exactly what they meant. First thing in the morning, the four groups were assigned a specific area on campus and left to themselves without staff assistance. Bewildered, they finally found a manila envelope, which contained directions for their group work.

Day long, they were handed more than 20 envelopes, each containing a deadline task. At times, the deadline was within minutes, and other times,





groups would have to work two or more tasks simultaneously. Some of the tasks included creating a government of each group's deaf club, creating a flag to represent the club, developing several skits and presentations to be given at the end of the day, and writing letters and essays on various camp-related issues.

One specific issue was a popular topic of discussion. YLC received a fax from the NAD Conference in Texas soliciting their opinion on having separate YLC sites—one in the East and another in the West. This question was presented as part of the task. Nearly everyone answered with a resounding "No," saying that the plan would deprive campers of the opportunity to compete with the best on a national level. Although the campers were unaware that this task was for real, their input was a factor in killing the motion at the NAD Conference.

The groups encountered frustration and stress caused by the deadlines and the need to work with the same people all day long on so many different things. Tempers flared, and finger-pointing was commonplace. However, at the end of the day, we came to appreciate our strengths and special skills, individually and collectively.

Pageant

After being chosen as pageant chairpersons, Amy Blades of Washington and Andrew Grubbs of Georgia immediately began interviewing candidates and coordinating decorating, technical, and refreshment committees. Eight boys and eight girls were chosen out of those who signed up. Competition consisted of four categories: introduction, catwalk, talent, and stage interview. Vali Hottle of California was Mistress of Ceremonies, and the judges were Suzy Rosen, Deanna Sipp, Paul Singleton, and Kelby Brick. The entire camp gathered to watch as 16 talented candidates strutted their stuff on a new platform that campers and Dave Sipp, the caretaker of Camp Taloali, had built that day. The judges had a tough time making their final selection of Miss and Mr. YLC: Joshua DuPree of Indiana and Tawny Holmes of Alabama!

The Best of YLC

The highlight of each day came when the Director of the Day announced the Camper of the Day Award (CDA). Every night, after all of the announcements were completed, the director announced the name of the camper who best exempli-

DEEP IMPACT

NUCLEUS

fied all-around leadership for the day. Every camper had a chance to prove his/her ability as a leader in the camp. All winners were then eligible to compete for the Gary W. Olsen Award, which goes to the best all-around camper for the summer.

Winners of the CDA on a daily basis were:

Reagan Anders, California; Amy Blades, Washington State; Kamau Buchanan, New Jersey; Jonah Carino, Hawaii; Crystal Dawson, Florida; Josh Fuenning, Nebraska; Kristin Granitz, Texas; Daniel Harnish, California; Amanda Huser, Indiana; Tawny Holmes, Alabama; Ryan Kelly, Wisconsin; Franco Korpics, Maryland; Nancy McAnlis, Pennsylvania; Erin Moran, Pennsylvania; Dean Rousseau, Canada; Samuel Sanders, Kansas; Pam Siebert, Minnesota; Brian Sipek, Illinois; Donald Slate, Massachusetts; Sherri Stone, Connecticut; and Marlon Wynne, Pennsylvania.

Brian Sipek of Illinois and Erin Moran of Pennsylvania captured the Gary W. Olsen Award as Outstanding Campers of the Year.

Joshua DuPree of Indiana and Tawny Holmes of Alabama

Beginning of the Future

The past 22 days had disappeared in a blink of the eye. It was the last night of YLC '98. Everyone, from staff to campers, dressed up for the Banquet. As the kids poured into Mess Hall, they realized that, in a matter of hours, the best month of their lives would soon be over.

Campers and guests were served a delicious dinner of lasagna, salad, and cake, their own menu, prepared by committee members.

Emcees Chris Tester of Virginia and Darlene Tropp of New Jersey introduced our distinguished guest speaker, Gallaudet President I. King Jordan. After Dr. Jordan spoke, each group came onstage to give a skit related to YLC. The Redwoods led off, singing "It's Time to Say Goodbye," an original song that they created. It was a tear-jerker, especially to those who truly understood the bond the campers had between each other. Following the Redwoods, Coals performed a rendition of their own, which wetted many eyes in the audience. The third group, Deep Impact, gave a skit on what they would remember when they met again some 50 years later, another moving

COALS

REDWOODS

experience for all. Nucleus brought up the rear, reminding the YLCers of everything that had happened throughout the summer session, to the delight of those present.

Awards Program included presentation of "Best All-Around Campers," "Best Cabin," "Most Improved Camper," "Best **Daily Drum** Workers," and "Best **Yearbook** Worker."

Campers then returned to their cabins for one last time to gather their belongings and change into proper attire for the "last fling" in Mess Hall. They danced to the beat of loud music and posed for pictures as brothers and sisters that they will be forever. As a finale, they circled around a bonfire, each with a lighted candle, taking turns to say a few remarks about their memorable YLC experiences never to be forgotten.

Following this long procession, they stood up and walked around YLC together, for the last time. Back to the bonfire circle, each camper and staffer went the full circle, hugging each other.

This special ceremony completed, the campers returned to Mess Hall for a slide show. Tears continued to flow as each picture reminded them that they were about to leave the best place in their lives.

The transformation the YLCers had gone through was finally nearing an end, while in actuality, it was only a beginning. At the beginning of camp, all of the campers were segregated into cliques, but at the end, particularly at the airport, the campers walked together as one big, happy family. Everyone was hugging each other tightly and crying when they said their goodbyes. The puzzle of 67 pieces had been pieced together, finally and forever!

Deaf Life All photos by Russell West

YLC '98 ROSTER

CAMPERS:

Elizabeth Abenchuchan, Florida
Reagan Anders, California
Raymonda Azrelyant, New York
Joe Bartunck, South Dakota
Amy Blades, Washington
Jennifer Blaylock, Kentucky
Kamau Buchanan, New Jersey
Brett Budzinski, Wisconsin
Holly Bullard, Tennessee
Thea Cabral, Massachusetts
Jonah Carino, Hawaii
Bryan Cater, Tennessee
Ralph Colbeck, Ontario, Canada
Crystal Dawson, Florida
Betsie DeLaune, Louisiana
Joshua Dupree, Indiana
Shameka Edwards, New York
Selina English, Virginia
Joshua Fuenning, Nebraska
Kristin Granitz, Texas
Andrew Grubbs, Georgia
Daniel Harnish, California
Chris Harris, Kentucky
Kristin Hess, New York
Tawny Holmes, Alabama
Christina Hornung, Wisconsin
Valerie Hottle, California
Tommy Hull, Ohio
Amanda Huser, Indiana
Amanda Jones, Kentucky
Ryan Kelly, Wisconsin
Franco Korpics, Maryland
Nancy McAnlis, Pennsylvania
Paloma McClelland, California
Takeshi Matsumoto, New Jersey
Thomas Milczncski, New York
Sherry Mohan, Kentucky
Sean Moore, Maryland

Y...L...C....9....8....Good Night!

Every night, after Camp Council, YLCers joined in for a roaring-screaming-fingerspelled goodnight.

Erin Moran, Pennsylvania
Jeff Morrill, New Jersey
Bonnie Morrison, California
Krissy Piorkowski, Colorado
Allison Polk, Maryland
Marcus Reguera, California
Dean Rousseau, Ontario, Canada
Pam Siebert, Minnesota
Sherri Stone, Connecticut
Samuel Shannon, Kentucky
Robin Shannon, Maryland
Shawn Shannon, Maryland
Emmanuel Shwan, New York
Brian Sipek, Illinois
Sean Sikes, Indiana
Donald Slate, Massachusetts
Adam Stoffer, Ohio
Sineoun Thuo, Minnesota
Darlene Tropp, New Jersey
Chris Tester, Vermont
Lisa Valenti, Illinois
Jeremias Valencia, California
Joshua Vanik, New York
Nick Vita, Pennsylvania
DuWycia Wilson, Indiana
Adam Wieser, Indiana
Marlon Wynne, Pennsylvania
Megan Youngs, Ontario, Canada

STAFF:
Frank Turk, Maryland
Nancy B. Rarus, Virginia
Dawn Birley, Saskatchewan, Canada
Jack Busenbark, Washington
Debbye Byrne, New York
Diana Cho, Ontario, Canada
Adele Ann Eberwein, California
Terry Giansanti, Maryland
Dyan Kovacs, Washington, D.C.
Nick Lalanne, New York
Heather Lightfoot, Washington
Glenn Lockhart, Maryland
Tanya Manktelow, Ontario, Canada
Brian T. Mayer, Minnesota
Young Hae Park, New York
Dave Sipp, Oregon
Deanna Sipp, Oregon
Sara Stallard, California
Marcus Sylvester, Texas
Andy Tao, Missouri
Frank W. Turk, Maryland
Mauricio Vanegas, New York
Annemieke van Kampen, Holland
Gordon Wallace, Oregon
Russell West, Kentucky
Maureen Yates, Maryland

Epilogue

Even though the campers have all gone their own ways away from their new-found brothers and sisters, they have all kept in touch, thanks to a modern miracle: E-mail. Since arriving home, they have all exchanged "YLC memoirs" through E-mail, discussing their experiences at YLC and what they remember most. Even though most of them are at school, they always find time to send their brothers and sisters E-mails on how life is going with them. Right now, thanks to the methods the YLCers learned at the Camp Council, they are choosing a chairperson for a YLC reunion. This is proof that the bond the YLCers of '98 developed at YLC will not be dissipated under any circumstances.

Real People...

Real Services.

• Youth Services -

Teen Institute is a week-long training camp designed to empower deaf and hard-of-hearing youth to act as leaders in the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse and raise awareness of such issues as HIV/AIDS and gang violence.

• 24-Hour Crisis Line Services -

- Deafline Missouri—a crisis hotline provided to deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals across Missouri. This is the only number that provides statewide services to deaf individuals in crisis. 1-800-380-DEAF (3323)

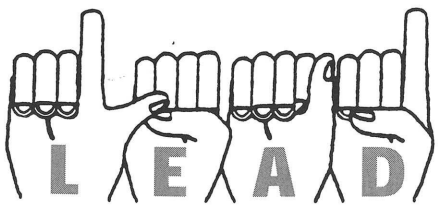
- Mid-Missouri Crisis Line—a general crisis hotline for both hearing and deaf individuals. It is an excellent service for both those who just need someone to talk to or those in a crisis situation. 1-888-761-HELP (4357)

• Victim Services -

MLI is the only agency to provide victim services targeted towards deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals across the state of Missouri. In addition to legal advocacy, free counseling and referral services, training programs are also available to shelters, emergency personnel and law enforcement.

• Other Services -

- Free counseling to the deaf and hard of hearing
- Free training in the use of TTY services and other equipment
- American Sign Language and Deaf Culture classes for both deaf and hearing individuals
- Resource center providing information about deafness, special equipment and other agencies that provide deaf services



Midwest Institute

Leadership through Education & Advocacy for the Deaf

Midwest L.E.A.D. Institute 409 Vandicer rd., Bldg. 4, Ste. 400 Columbia. MO 65202 (573) 817-2400

. . . A FEW MORE WORDS

"Going to jail for the summer":

As a Deaf/hard-of-hearing teen, I have had a hard time in camps for hearing kids. I've been going to the YMCA for 6 years and the whole camp was full of hearing people. Most of the counselors were either college or high school students. I've always felt mad about my life, because all my life I've had to put up with no interpreters.

Everybody made fun of me, even the counselors and my brother. The counselors were supposed to control it, but they never did except for one time. I have always thought that the counselors were so irresponsible, because it seemed liked there was nobody who cared. I tried talking to my mom and she talked to the counselors, but they didn't care. They only cared about the hearing kids, because that's the majority of the camp. A lot of the kids at camp thought that Deaf/hard-of-hearing people had mental problems. I tried many times to talk to the counselors, and to talk to the kids. Instead, the counselors did nothing about it.

Many times, when it was time for the announcements, I would ask the counselors about what the director said. The counselors always told the kids to tell me what the director said, but I asked, "Excuse me, I can't understand a kid's voice, so could you please tell me what the director said . . . yourself?" They never cared about me knowing the announcements. They acted like it wasn't something important for me to know, but I thought that was pretty dumb, because no wonder I didn't know the rules and always got into trouble. I felt that I should know the rules and what's going on at camp, because I'm part of this camp too. If they cared about people, they should be able to help people and have everybody know the rules and what's going on at camp.

I tried to go looking for other camps, but it seemed like there weren't any other camps for me to go to. It was hard, because most camps were for a week or two, or it was all-summer camp, for hearing people. I was under a lot of pressure. I didn't realize that until I found out that was NOT how I should be treated (or anyone). When I

my experience at a hearing camp

was in fourth grade, it was the last day of school and I cried, because I didn't want to go back to camp for the summer. I used to always cry on the last day of school, because I wanted to stay in school instead of going to camp. I felt like I was having fun at school, and going to jail in the summer.

I felt really alone and blocked out, which I still do sometimes. I felt so alone that I couldn't even talk to my own mother! I told my mother about my feelings, but she said that it was probably because they don't know how to act around me. I felt so mad, because I'm just a regular person who can't hear as well as the hearing kids. I mean, what's wrong with getting along with Deaf/hard-of-hearing people? Doesn't ANYONE know that nobody's perfect? We should be satisfied for who we are, not what we look like or what other people look like. Nobody is perfect in this world and that's what makes it interesting! We shouldn't criticize people, just because we are or look different.

I mostly feel like I want all teachers in every school to know sign language, just like Spanish and French. In this way, Deaf/hard-of-hearing kids can go to school in their neighborhood, unless some of them want to go to the CAIU instead. Spanish and French are both languages, and so is sign language. It's a good thing to know different languages, so we can communicate with different kinds of people! In fact, most of the people at my school are always asking me to teach them sign language, I keep thinking, "Why can't schools have a class or after school group to learn languages they want to learn?"

I've always felt like a prisoner in jail, and that's not how people should feel like in the summer. We are supposed to relax in the summer from being in school all year, but at camp it was different. I had to wake up about 7:00 in the morning, just like the time I woke up for school. I got dressed and went to camp, we had freetime from the time we arrived and up until 9:00am, then we had announcements. We followed the scheldede, depending on what day it was. I felt like we were slaves, because we always had to play every game there was. (They were the same games we have been playing for years.) A lot of the other kids who didn't go to camp could do whatever they wanted to do, but at camp we couldn't do anything we wanted to do.

I hope you felt involved in my experience! It's really difficult being Deaf/hard-of-hearing and I hope you understood my experience. Because of my experience I found camps that focus on Deaf/hard-of-hearing kids.

I hope you don't have to go through what I had to go thraugh! I hope that people will be touched by my story and will understand what I'm trying to say in my experience! In the future, I hope that my experience will go better and also for those people who have had the same experience as I did!

—Janelle Wolfgang
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

✏ Janelle Wolfgang was a 12-year-old 6th-grader when she sent this to us several months ago (during the previous school year). She explained, "My English teacher wants my class and I to write a[n] article about something and see if the editor will pubish our articles (maybe some of them!) . . . . I think my article is excellent, because I wrote it from deep in my heart. I'm proud of what I have accomplished!"

DeafView

READERS' RESPONSES

Should Youth Leadership Camp be moved to the middle of the country?

23% Yes 50% No 27% Not sure

NOT SURE—It would be a great idea so it's even- people don't have to come all the way from Washing ton D.C. to Oregon. You know? BUT Camp Taloali is a BEAUTIFUL place and the mountians...What can I say?

YES—Don't need to go across America to just experience one month of leadership.

YES—Find some place in the middle of the country that have everything, like lake and others. There is a big changes in the middle country...for people to come and recognize Middle West states.

NO—Tradition, that's what I can say. Plus, it would bring up too much discussion and conflict of feelings. Its NOT where YLC is, it's WHAT YLC is.

YES—Because it will be fair for most kids who go to YLC. For instance, kids from California will have same length of travelling as kids from New York. YLC has high percentage of YLCers from East and West, not in the middle so they should have same opportunity.

NO—It would be nice to have YLC in the center of the country, but we already have YLC in Oregon, filled with rich cultures, customs, traditions, and history. I think it's unnecessary to move a camp, giving all that up for geographical purpose.

NO—An outdoor life is majority in the West due to its highest ultimate barncades of mother nature such as beaches, mountain hiking, rafting, harmoney to everinomental and many more prominet readons why YLC should stay alive somewhere in the west!

YES—I assume there would be more applications because what if I live at the other end and have to pay for higher airfares. Whatever I'm saying, just move it to the middle cause it's logical!

YES—Because it seems fair between the eastern and western of U.S. fly to the middle of the U.S. It's easy way to go! I thought that YLC shouldn't be at the West because I usually lives in Eastern coast so I took the long ride. I suggest that YLC should move to the middle of U.S.

NO—Oregon is one of the most beautiful states in USA, in my opinion. I love the mountains and the landscape. Camp Taloali is a great place, and I couldn't ask for better. What's in the middle of U.S.? YLC should stay in Oregon.

NO—Cuz, it's dead in the middle of the country!

NO—Because Oregon is the most right place for it. It's weather, place, and the beauty of it. WOW!

NOT SURE—If we can move YLC to a bigger place to hold more campers...We need more students come to YLC and produce more leaders and good deaf people!

This question was asked of YLCers only; it was not offered to the public.

Readers have asked us how many "DeafView" responses we get every month.
This month's total: 60

DeafView

READERS' VIEWPOINT

DEAF LIFE would like to know what you think about major issues affecting the Deaf community. Fax your response to (716) 442-6371, E-mail us at deaflife@deaflife.com, **or** send it to us at Box 23380, Rochester, NY 14692-3380.

Should the Youth Leadership Camp be re-established as an independent nonprofit organization?

❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Not sure

Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

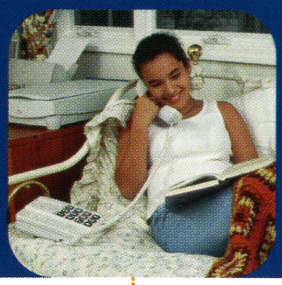
_____

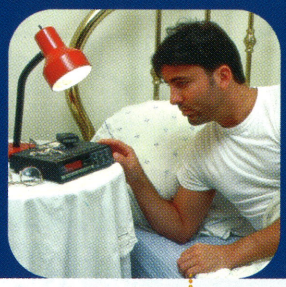
Deadline: October 20,1998

Visit us at: **http://www.deafview.com**

FAX: (716) 442-6371

Please respond promptly so that we can publish the results in the November issue.





STAY ALERT!

Do you want a notification system you can depend on? We have the best and most complete system available. The **ALERTMASTER AM-6000** provides the convenience you have always dreamed of having! This wireless system detects activities or noises in your house such as a ringing telephone, an alarm clock, the doorbell, an audio alarm, baby cries, or even motion. It is affordable and easy to install. You decide which activities and ... **STAY ALERT!**

ameriphone

For information or a catalog, call us at:
(800) 772-2889 TTY • (800) 874-3005 VOICE • (714) 897-4703 FAX
E-MAIL: ameriphone@ameriphone.com
www.ameriphone.com
12082 Western Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92841-2913

©AMERIPHONE, Ref:DL/8-98/AM-6000 A11798

SUPPLEMENT TO DEAFLIFE

SEPTEMBER 1998

DeafLife PLUS

• RELEASES • ANNOUNCEMENTS • UPCOMING EVENTS • LATE-BREAKING NEWS •

STEPPING DOWN:
MMM RETIRES FROM GLAD

Marcella M. Meyer

On August 10, **Marcella M. Meyer** announced her retirement from the Greater Los Angeles Council on Deafness (GLAD), effective September 11, after serving as Chief Executive Officer for more than 23 years.

Meyer came on board during the GLAD's infancy in 1974 as a volunteer when the GLAD-INFO was established in cooperation with the Information and Referral Service of Los Angeles County. She was instrumental in the development of the proposal that resulted in GLAD-INFO receiving an Innovation and Expansion grant from the California Department of Rehabilitative Services, enabling deaf and hard-of-hearing residents of Los Angeles County to receive free sign-language-interpreting services.

Under Meyer's tenure, GLAD grew from a small office with three employees and a budget of under $70,000 to a multi-faceted service corporation with an annual budget of $5 million, overseeing 75 employees in 10 outreach offices throughout the Southern California area. Meyer oversaw GLAD services that include GLAD-INFO, interpreter-referral, information and referral, advocacy, employment, family-health education, and AIDS education and services for the deaf.

Her work was not limited to GLAD, however. She chaired the California Coalition of Agencies Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for several years, and also served as president of the California Association of the Deaf for two terms and on numerous committees for the NAD. She was also appointed by the mayor to serve on the L.A. City Commission on Disabilities.

GLAD Agency Board of Directors Chair **Herb Larson** said, "I have had the pleasure of working with Marcella and knowing her as my friend since GLAD-INFO was born. We will miss her as she retires but know she will maintain close ties with us."

Meyer has received numerous accolades for her

MAKE YOUR NEWS OUR NEWS!

The entire contents of **DEAF LIFE** are copyright ©1997. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. For more information, write to **DEAF LIFE.**

DEAF LIFE news material: Our Policy

What we want:

Send us anything you think is appropriate. Items should be of national, not just local, interest. Typed articles with photos preferred. Photos, etc., will be returned on request. We reserve the right to reject or edit any material.

When we need it:

Please send material by the first of the month for publication the following month, with a 10-day grace period. (Items for November 1992 publication, for example, must be sent before October 10.) The earlier, the better. We will not accept any story more than 1 month old.

Where to send it:

For regular **first-class mail**, please send to our P.O. box number: **DEAF LIFE** , c/o MSM Productions, Box 23380, Rochester, NY 14692-3380.

For **Express Mail** and **Federal Express**, please send to our office address: 1095 Meigs Street, Rochester, NY 14620.

No "free advertising!"

We are pleased to publish any organization or group's news and announcements, but will not provide "free advertising." We define "free advertising" as pushing a product. Any for-profit group, service, agency, company, or person who wishes to promote something in **DEAF LIFE Plus** is encouraged to place an ad. We will be happy to send you an ad-rate schedule on request. Nonprofit groups who advertise will get a special discount.

Anyone who sends us a press release incorporating {including} "free advertising" (such as announcing a new product or paid service) should include a "token" payment of $50.00. Warning: Any "promotional" press release sent to us without payment will be considered for publication—but we will omit {cut out} prices and addresses.

Are You Moving?

Please give us 6 weeks' advance notice before you move to your new address, or you'll lose a copy or two.
THE POST OFFICE DOES **NOT** FORWARD MAGAZINES!
Please affix your old mailing label here:

(Or simply write down your subscriber's code number.)

Write your new address below:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____
ZIP Code & **plus 4 if possible**

☐TTY ☐ Voice: (____) _____

FAX: (____) _____

If you do NOT know your new address, we will hold your magazines for you. You MUST tell us **exactly** when you'll be moving, and also tell us when you get a new address.

DEAF LIFE SUBSCRIBER SERVICE

Please circle one:		New Subscriber USA / Canada & Foreign*	Ex-Subscriber USA / Canada & Foreign*
1 Year (12 issues)	Check/M.O.	$27.00 / $42.00	$26.00 / $37.00
	Credit Card	$27.00 / $42.00	$26.00 / $37.00
2 Years (24 issues)	Check/M.O.	$50.00 / $74.00	$48.00 / $74.00
	Credit Card	$50.00 / $74.00	$48.00 / $74.00

*CANADIAN/FOREIGN ORDERS: U.S. funds only!
Fed. ID #16-1313501
SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES:
To save time, energy, paper, and trees—please, NO purchase orders! **Prepaid orders only.**

If you're a former subscriber or renewing, please give your subscription number: #_____

Please print clearly! **Feel free to photocopy.**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____
ZIP Code & **plus 4 if possible**

☐TTY☐Voice: (____) _____ FAX: (____) _____

Card Number: __/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__

Expiration Date: _____ Signature: _____

DINERS CLUB INTERNATIONAL VISA MasterCard

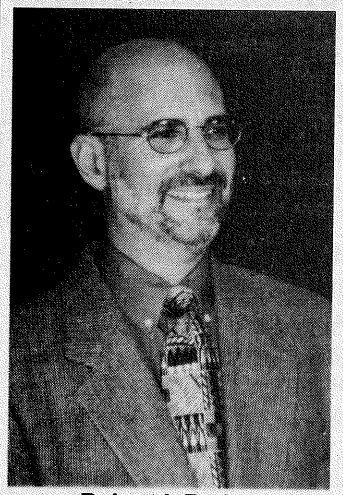
A $20.00 fine is charged on all bounced checks. Please allow 8 weeks for delivery.

Send your order form with check or money order payable to:
DEAF LIFE, c/o MSM Productions, Ltd.
Box 23380, Rochester, NY 14692-3380
FAX (716) 442-6371

contributions to the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community on the local, state, and national levels. Her most recent was the prestigious President's Award at the NAD biennial conference in San Antonio, Texas, this past July.

Background: GLAD serves an estimated population of more than 60,000 deaf and hard-of-hearing persons in the Greater Los Angeles area. Its current headquarters are in Eagle Rock in the former Women's Christian Temperance Union Building, a city historical landmark.

STEPPING UP: ROTH APPOINTED DCARA CHIEF



Robert I. Roth: Taking the DCARA helm.

Robert I. Roth has been appointed the new Executive Director of Deaf Counseling, Advocacy, and Referral Agency (DCARA), based in San Leandro, California. He replaces Acting Director **Gerri Healy**, who was appointed to direct DCARA during the search process.

Roth brings a wealth of experience to his new assignment. For the past 4 years, he has served as the Executive Director of Community Service Center for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing in Seattle. He was also the director of an arts camp for deaf and hard-of-hearing children, and served as manager of a vocational-counseling and placement program for deaf adults. He has held other positions outside the Deaf community, including his own program and development consultation company, and each involved a high level of budget and program responsibility, as well as grantwriting and fundraising.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Visual Communications from the Institute of Design at Illinois Institute of Technology and a Master's in Art Education from CSUN. His community involvement has included service on several commissions, boards, and committees, including the Pride Foundation, the Mayor's Committee on Review of Human Rights, AIDS Project of the Deaf, Washington State Association of the Deaf, and Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services.

He relocated to the Bay Area during August, and begins his duties at DCARA on September 15. Also making the move is Roth's life partner, **Bob Huven**, a consultant for deaf-blind children and a certified sign-language interpreter.

★ COMMUNITY EVENTS ★

NEW CITIZENS? NEW LANGUAGE? NEW START!

Chicago's Deaf Adults Education Access Program (DAEAP) is offering another round of citizenship classes for Deaf adults whose native language is not English. The program's goal is to prepare students to successfully complete the United States' citizenship examination. Classes are taught in ASL. Basic Written English, American history, and civics will be introduced using a whole-language approach. Individual tutoring is also available. All DAEAP classes are free of charge, and Deaf immigrants from all backgrounds are welcome. Classes meet on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Chicago Club of the Deaf, 4221 West Irving Park Road, Chicago.

An open house on Saturday, August 22, kicked off the fall semester. Classes began on August 29.

New this year: DAEAP is offering a naturalization workshop and providing assistance for students interested in filling out citizenship application forms.

For information, contact **Maureen Philbin** at (312) 802-3566 (TTY/Voice) or **Bob Paul** at ☎(847) 925-6602 (TTY).

FIGHTING THE "MISSIONARY MENACE"

With the Jews for Jesus Summer Witnessing Campaign well underway, the Orthodox Union has been taking steps to educate deaf and hard-of-hearing Jews about the missionary menace. In collaboration with Jews for Judaism, a Baltimore-based anti-missionary organization, the OU is offering accessible seminars on combating missionaries. Led by **David Kastor** of Baltimore, who is Deaf, the seminars

focus on strategies used by groups such as Jews for Jesus, one of the best-known and most public of the Hebrew-Christian groups. Hebrew-Christians attempt to convert Jews by encouraging them to retain their Jewish identities while embracing Jesus as the Messiah.

Kastor, who has lectured about missionaries to deaf Jews throughout the Northeast, including Gallaudet University, is available to lecture to New York synagogues, organizations, and youth groups.

Rabbi Eliezer Lederfeind, a CODA, is Director of Our Way, the OU program for deaf and hard-of-hearing Jews. He says, "In recent years, missionaries have specifically targeted the deaf Jewish population, even publishing a newsletter for so-called Deaf Messianic Jews. Deaf Jews are often particularly susceptible to missionaries because they are often excluded from religious experiences in mainstream Jewish life. Synagogues have yet to provide interpreters and services for the deaf and hard-of-hearing, so it is not surprising that the deaf population is forced to seek spirituality outside of the Jewish community. Above all, the missionary threat should prompt the Jewish community to be more inclusive."

Aggressively heightening their activity during the summer months, Jews for Jesus recently placed full-page ads in the **New York Times** and the **Wall Street Journal** with the headline "Believing in Jesus Makes a Jew More Jewish." They have also blanketed New York hot spots such as Penn Station and Times Square with pamphlets sporting such catchy titles as "What Will Jerry [Seinfeld] Do Next?!" and "G-d for Dummies."

Kastor, the Maryland Representative of Our Way, says, "Messianic Judaism is not authentic Judaism. It is fundamental Christianity dressed up to look Jewish and thereby ensnare Jewish souls. Deaf Jews, who are often religiously estranged from the Jewish community, are particularly vulnerable to missionaries. During this season of heightened missionary activity, it is our mandate to reach out to the deaf."

The OU, in addition to offering seminars to synagogues, organizations, colleges, and youth groups, is making educational resources available. These include Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan's **The Real Messiah: A Jewish Response to Missionaries**, a book that refutes missionary claims, and ***The Target is You***, a closed-captioned videotape produced by Jews for Judaism.

For more information, call ☎(410) 769-3786 (TTY), ☎(212) 613-8321 (Voice), ❖DKastor@hcfa.gov (E-mail), or visit the Jews for Judaism Website at ✱http://www.jewsforjudaism.org.

Background: Established in 1969, Our Way is the only Jewish movement reaching out to the deaf across the country and bridging the gap between the hearing and the deaf communities. Through a vast array of programs including holiday celebrations, weekend retreats, religious programs, summer tours, conventions, and special signing publications, Our Way provides spiritual and social opportunities for nearly 1,000 Jewish deaf youths and adults.

The Orthodox Union, celebrating 100 years of service to the Jewish community of the U.S.A. and countries throughout the world, is a foremost leader in youth work, advocacy for the disabled, synagogue services, adult education, and political action. Its kosher-supervision label, the OU, is the world's most-recognized kosher symbol and can be found on over 200,000 products in 56 countries around the globe. Address: 333 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10001.

WINNING WHEELS

Lisa "Pinky" Aiello of Van Nuys, California, whose skill in riding a 6-foot-high Giraffe unicycle was highlighted in our March 1991 issue,* recently took on a new cycling challenge. She participated in the Community Challenge Ride. Aiello, who is Deaf, was Rider #51.

On July 21, she faxed an announcement: "As you know, I've been a fitness fanatic for years, and now I've decided to put that fitness to work for some causes that are near and dear to my heart. From August 20-23, I'm going to be one of perhaps 1000 cyclists in the Southern California Challenge Ride, a 300-mile pedal-pushing journey that begins in San Diego." It was sponsored by the San Diego Women's and Men's Community Center and San Diego ONE to raise funds for:

- breast cancer—a growing concern of women, breast cancer will become more prevalent as baby-boomers get older.
- women's health programs—as medical and scientific folks have slowly come to realize, women are not merely men with a different reproductive apparatus. Women's health programs are needed to address concerns specific to women.
- counseling and community outreach—the importance of these services cannot be overstated. Deeply troubled people have turned their lives around by participating in the Center's counseling programs, and many community-based organizations are supported, promoted, and housed by the Center. These services must not only continue; they need to expand.
- HIV/AIDS services—all of us have lost friends to AIDS. There are men who have been HIV-positive for 10 years or more who have benefited from the research on this devastating disease. Both research and care of AIDS victims must continue!

Aiello rode in memory of her mother, who died of breast cancer.

*See "Up in the air," "News Briefs" (**DEAF LIFE Plus**), March 1991, p. 11.

★ ★ ★ SCHOOLS ★ ★ ★

Pizza party, prizes, and pride: KDES Optimist winners pose with their awards. Left to right, back row: Beth Hall (Teacher/ Researcher, grade 3/4/5 team), Mahalia Palmer of Hyattsville, Maryland (grade 4); Dr. Katherine Jankowski, Director, PCNMP Demonstration Schools; Jonathan Kessel of Washington (grade 6); Ludmila Mounty-Weinstock of Washington (grade 6); Arlene Ngalle of Springfield, Virginia (grade 5); Esther Drake of Springfield, Virginia (grade 5); and Dr. Jane K. Fernandes, Vice-President, PCNMP. Front row: Meghan Venturini of Woodbridge, Virginia (grade 5); Trisha Jones of Landover, Maryland (grade 3); and Sarah Martin of Arlington, Virginia (grade 4).

KDES' TROPHY SWEEPS

"Let's all win again next year!" cheered teacher **Beth Hall** at her presentation during the pizza party celebrating the winners of the Optimist Oratorical Contest for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. Hall has been helping preparing Kendall Demonstration Elementary School students sweep the top prizes for two years running at the Capitol-Virginia District competition of the Optimists' International Oratorical Contest. This year **Jonathan Kessel**, a 6th-grader at KDES, won both the local Optimist Noonday chapter competition on May 13 and the District competition on May 31 for his essay on "Reducing Global Warming," which he presented in ASL. As the District winner of this year's elementary-level contest, he received a $1,500 scholarship.

The Optimist Club, a civic organization whose goal is to encourage and befriend young people, sponsors the annual oratorical contest to offer an opportunity for deaf and hard-of-hearing young people to present their thoughts on a given topic in a public forum. The experience helps students develop the skills and confidence to present in sign or orally to a large audience. "The contest not only improves students' written comprehension, it greatly improves their self-esteem," said Dr. **David Leikoff**, who organized the Noonday Chapter contest. Each student wrote an essay on this year's theme, "My Commitment to the Future," and had to present it before an audience within 4 to 5 minutes. Ten contestants competed in the final round held at George Mason University. Among them were oral-deaf students, a cued-speech user, and signers. There were four judges and interpreters to assist with voicing and signing.

At the pizza party, Hall also recognized KDES students **Mahalia Palmer** and **Ludmila Mounty-Weinstock**, who were runners-up in this year's first local competition; **Arlene Ngalle**, who took first place at the second local competition on May 26 along with runners-up **Esther Drake**, **Trisha Jones**, and **Sarah Martin**. Last year's champion was **Meghan Venturini** from KDES. Both Kessel and Ngalle competed at George Mason University on May 31 with the winners from the eight local Optimist competitions.

Carol McBride from the Vienna Optimist Chapter organized the District-level competition. "This year we had 100 students participate in run-off competitions, 60 at the local competitions, and 10 students in the final," she said. "The contest allows students to practice what they have learned in the classroom, organize their thoughts, and experience the immediate impact of a live audience to their work. The Optimists make a point of recognizing each student's participation." **Don Mahoney**, Program Manager for KDES at Gallaudet University's Pre-College National Mission Programs, commended the Kendall students on their performance. "This contest is a wonderful opportunity for our students. It is a pleasure to watch each of them muster up the courage and grace to face an audience and present their essays. It is also quite gratifying to see what a genuinely good job they do."

THE JOY OF READING

Karen Messick, Coordinator of Youth Services (left), and **April Penberthy**, Coordinator of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program (right) at the New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped, recently visited the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf in West Trenton. Through sign and voice, they helped students from kindergarten to fourth grade share the joy of reading.

This program is conducted at schools and libraries across the state of New Jersey both to help deaf children "hear"

stories as well as to help other children understand the way the deaf speak and "hear."

Interested in having a similar program? Contact Penberthy at ☎(609) 633-7250 (TTY/Voice) or Messick at ☎(609) 530-3251 (Voice). Address: New Jersey State Library, P.O. Box 520, Trenton, NJ 08625-0520.

★ ★ ★ THEATER ★ ★ ★

NTD'S JOSLOW: "THE CRISIS IS OVER"

Search for a new Managing Director underway

On July 21, **Jon Joslow**, who has served as Executive Director of the National Theatre of the Deaf for the past 2 years, announced that he had brought the NTD to financial stabilization and was ready to turn its day-to-day operations over to a managing director.

Joslow will head the NTD until he, Artistic Director **Will Rhys**, and NTD's Board of Directors conclude a nationwide search to select a person to fill the theater's top management position.

"We've made great strides in restructuring the financial and operational affairs of this national treasure," said Joslow. "Through the collective efforts of our staff, Board, vendors, bankers, public agencies, and tremendous community support, the National Theatre of the Deaf now has a clean bill of health. We just completed a successful 15-month certified audit of our operations. We addressed areas of the theater that needed improving, while maintaining our artistic vision. My turn-around work is done. I was asked to help the theater in a crisis situation. The crisis is over. What the theater now needs is someone to continue implementing our strategic plan, while maintaining day-to-day operations."

This past season (1997-98), under Joslow's leadership, the NTD accomplished the largest national tour in its 31-year history, reaching 60 cities. In April, Joslow arranged a financing package with a consortium of banks and the Middlesex County Revitalization Commission, which restructured the long and short-term debt at NTD and corrected its cash flow. Technical assistance for this project was provided by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development and the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce. The plan has won the support of the U.S. Department of Education, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Connecticut Commission on the Arts.

Rhys said, "Jon came to us a time of turbulence and anxiety. Through his extraordinary efforts over the past two-and-a-half years, the National Theatre of the Deaf now finds itself in a position of strength, confidence, and energy. His passion and commitment to all that we have done, are currently engaged in, and are planning to do, has been invaluable. I am grateful for his time with us."

Joslow, who lives in Chester, Connecticut, where the NTD is based, will resume his consulting practice, which focuses on business planning and tactical implementation.

LET THE STARS SHINE!

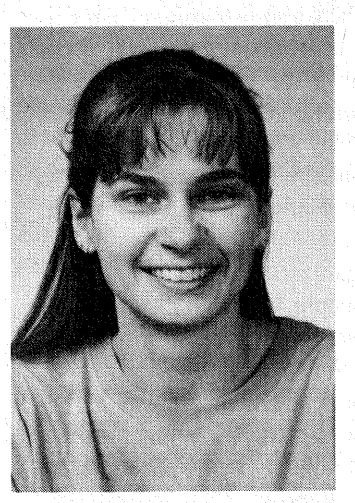
In conjunction with the WSAD/OAD mini-convention, North West Theatre of the Deaf is presenting the second biennial Deaf Star Search on September 18, at the Washington School for the Deaf in Vancouver. Deaf Star Search brings together amateur Deaf talent from across the country to exhibit the finest in ASL poetry, storytelling, skits, and comedy. A panel of Deaf judges experienced in the performing arts will award prizes to top contestants.

Recognizing the lack of opportunities for Deaf performers to showcase their skills nationally, **Patrick Fischer** produced the first Deaf Star Search during the 1996 NAD convention. Once again, Deaf Star Search promises to be a great success with a multitalented array of contestants and the well-known Seattle performer **Nat Wilson** as master of ceremonies.

Deaf Star Search '98 takes place on Friday, September 18, at 8:00 p.m., in the Lloyd Auditorium at WSD, 611 Grand Boulevard, Vancouver, WA 98661. Tickets are available at the door. For more information, contact Patrick Fischer at ☎(503) 629-8800 (TTY), ❒(503) 439-1055 (FAX), or ❖idwiz@teleport.com (E-mail).

★ ★ ★ MULTIMEDIA ★ ★ ★

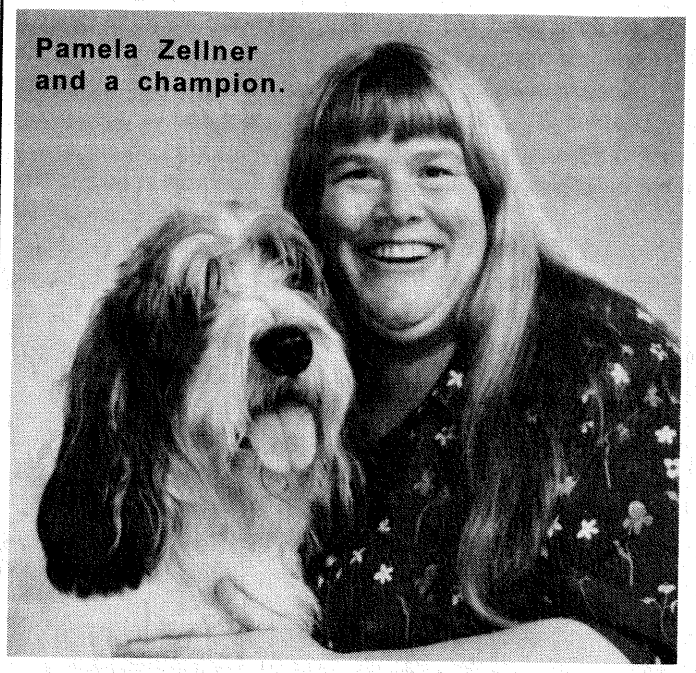
BEST OF BREED



Micki Nesbit

Out to Win, written by **Micki Nesbit** and illustrated by **Pamela Zellner**, is a new children's book that was developed with the support of NTID. It's a story about a young deaf girl, Sarah, and her efforts to achieve success. Sarah wants to compete in a dog show with her English setter, Toby, but she is the only entry in her class and has no one to show her the judging patterns. It's important for Sarah to prove to everyone that she can win because she's the best, not because she's different from other kids.

Nesbit, the author, is a teacher at Rochester School for the Deaf and has shown purebred dogs since 1975, putting numerous titles on her cocker spaniels. She now owns and



Pamela Zellner and a champion.

shows Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens (also known as "PBGVs") and is involved with kennel and breed-club activities, writing for purebred-dog magazines. Zellner, the illustrator, earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from RIT with the support of NTID. She was born deaf and was mainstreamed in public schools before attending college. She now lives in Rhode Island with her husband, a fellow deaf RIT graduate.

The book is a supporting text for NTID's educational-interpreting project, "Educational Interpreting—A Practical Approach, Consumer Awareness, Rights, and Responsibilities Videotape Series." For more information, contact the project director, **Jeanne M. Wells**, at ☎(716) 475-6890 (TTY/Voice), or jmwnss@rit.edu (E-mail).

YOU CAN'T HAVE TOO MUCH COMMUNICATION!

An open-captioned videotape addressing early-intervention programming for families of deaf and hard-of-hearing children is now available for use by parents, teachers, physicians, and social-service agencies through RIT's Campus Connections Bookstore. Videotapes are available in both English and Spanish captions.

The videotape highlights four families with deaf and hard-of-hearing children with a variety of parenting and communication styles. Research on psychosocial and linguistic development of young deaf and hard-of-hearing children indicates that early meaningful communication between parents and their children provides many benefits, including a sense of success for both parents and children. Such early communication may incorporate several modes including ASL, Total Communication, oral/aural strategies, or Cued Speech.

The videotape was produced by NTID's Department of Educational Outreach, in cooperation with the Family Education/Early Intervention Program at the Maryland School for the Deaf.

For Department of Educational Outreach program information, contact **Jean Bondi-Wolcott**, coordinator, at ☎(716) 475-6705 (TTY/Voice) or ❖JMB4646@rit.edu (E-mail).

LOOK UP SIGN, FIND WORD!

Most sign-language dictionaries list English vocabulary alphabetically next to sign illustrations, which doesn't help users locate a sign they've just seen for the first time, or one whose meaning they've forgotten. Students of ASL can now look up a sign to find its meaning in English by using **The American Sign Language Handshape Dictionary** (Gallaudet University Press). It organizes more than 1,600 ASL signs by 40 basic handshapes and includes detailed descriptions of how to form each sign to represent the varying terms that they might mean, allowing readers to locate the right sign for the right context. And a complete English-word index provides the option of looking up English words to find the sign or signs used to translate them into ASL.

In easy-to-follow style, **The ASL Handshape Dictionary** introduces how signs are used in ASL structure and presents clear, explicit directions on how to identify a sign and its meaning in the specific context of its use. For example, the English word "run" can mean *to run a race* or *to run a company*; to represent this same word in each context requires the use of two entirely different ASL signs. ASL students can track down almost any sign by employing a logical process of elimination, starting with whether the sign in question is made with one hand or two. Further distinctions of handshape, palm orientation, location, movement, and other non-manual body signals help them to pinpoint their search while also refining their grasp of ASL syntax and grammar.

The authors possess unique credentials. **Richard Tennant**, a former mathematics teacher who has studied ASL extensively, recognized the limitations of the conventional, English-oriented sign-language dictionaries. Co-author **Marianne Gluszak Brown** is an American Sign Language Teacher's Association (ASLTA) professionally certified interpreter and a child of deaf parents (CODA). Their joint expertise has enabled them to create an uncommon balance of cross-reference features that presents students, sign-language teachers, and Deaf people alike with a genuinely innovative° resource that enhances the opportunity to hone communication skills in both ASL and English.

innovative: (*adjective*): taking a new approach.
hone: (*verb*) sharpen; polish; refine; improve.

➳ See "Sports" section below for Kenny Walker's new book.

★ ★ ★ CAPTIONING ★ ★ ★

CHEETAH WHIZ JOINS VITAC

On July 27, VITAC announced **Gary Robson** had joined the VITAC team. Robson, who has over 10 years of experience in the closed-captioning industry and over 20 years of experience in software development, will be responsible for evaluating new technologies at VITAC and developing systems including digital technology.

Said **Joseph R. Karlovits**, President of VITAC: "We are pleased to welcome Gary aboard as VITAC's Chief Technology Strategist. He brings with him a wealth of experience in many different areas that will be a great asset to VITAC as we prepare to enter the 21st century."

In 1987, Robson founded Cheetah Systems, the nation's leading provider of real-time-captioning software, with his wife **Kathy**, who works for VITAC as a stenocaptioner. Robson was a principal designer for all of Cheetah's captioning products, and co-designed the industry's first ergonomic° stenotype keyboard. In recognition of his work on captioning software, he received the 1997 **Andrew Saks°** Engineering Award from Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc. (TDI) for his "outstanding contribution to improving the visual accessibility of information."

Robson is a recognized expert in the captioning business, with numerous articles, seminars, and technical papers to his credit. He is the author of **Inside Captioning**, the definitive book about the captioning industry. He has extensive Internet experience, too. He created one of the first captioning-related Websites, wrote the *Caption FAQ* on the Internet, and runs a captioning section in CompuServe's Deaf Forum. He also set up the groundbreaking real-time captioning of Vice President **Al Gore's** speech on CompuServe in 1994, real-time captioning on the Internet for the Discovery Channel in 1995, and real-time captioning on America Online and the World Wide Web in 1996.

Robson's Internet and software experience will be especially beneficial as VITAC works with Group W Network Services to further develop Global Captions, a new Internet-based, worldwide caption-management and delivery service.

"I am extremely pleased to be joining VITAC," said Robson. "VITAC is moving forward into an era of new technologies, such as DTV, DVD, and Internet-based caption delivery. By working for VITAC, I'll be a part of setting the future direction of the entire captioning industry."

ergonomic: (*adjective*) specially designed to fit and work with the human hand or body and to increase efficiency and comfort—e.g., ergonomically designed chairs, handbags, and tools.

Andrew Saks: one of the co-developers of the acoustic TTY coupler (which revolutionized telecommunications for deaf people), along with Dr. **James C. Marsters** and **Robert Weitbrecht**—all deaf.

RECOMMENDED READING

The Caption Center has published the latest issue of its *Consumer Information Series*. "Federal Captioning Mandates: What They Are and What They Mean to You" summarizes, in a straightforward question-and-answer format, the captioning regulations set by the Federal Communication Commission. Among the information provided is an overview of the regulations, those responsible for compliance, the separate schedules for new vs. old programs, the exemptions, the "fine print," guidance on the complaint process. and a list of further resources.

The issue on the FCC mandates is #7 in a series designed to aid consumers with various captioning issues. The titles of previous issues include: "Making Meetings Accessible," "Captioned Local News, Getting Started in Your Town," "More and Better Captioning: You Can Make it Happen," "Solving Caption Problems," "The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Decoder Circuitry Act," and "The Educational Uses of Captioning."

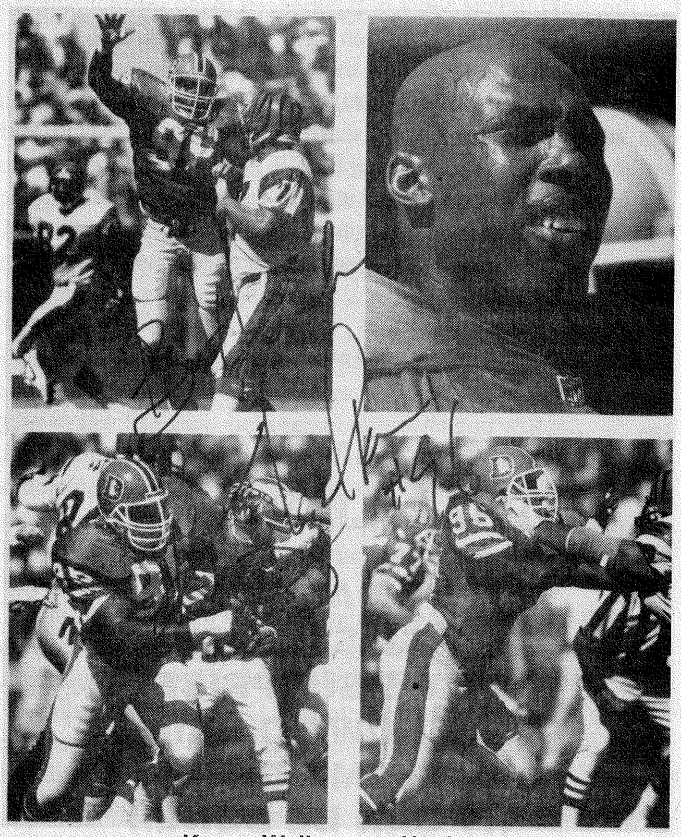
The *Consumer Information Series* is one of several Caption Center publications designed to promote open communication among all those who have a stake in increasing access to television and video. *TechFacts* alerts television and video professionals to developments in the captioning industry and provides tips for correct caption transmission; *Caption Center News* keeps 28,000 clients, consumer organizations, teachers, and government officials abreast of the latest news and trends in an industry The Caption Center founded in 1972.

For more information, contact The Caption Center at ☎(617) 492-9225 (TTY/Voice), ❖caption@wgbh.org (E-mail). Address: 125 Western Avenue, Boston, MA 02134. The publications are also available for downloading at The Caption Center's Website: ✷www.wgbh.org/caption.

★ ★ ★ SPORTS ★ ★ ★

IS THERE LIFE AFTER FOOTBALL?

Kenny Walker, who played for the University of Nebraska, the Denver Broncos, and three teams in the Canadian Football League, has just published his autobiography. **Roar of Silence: the Kenny Walker Story**, was released on September 8. It was written by Walker and sportswriter **Bob Schaller**, and is published by Cross Training Publishing of Grand Island, Nebraska. It details how Walker dealt with being deaf, the challenges he faced, and how his spirit and will to succeed helped him overcome all of the obstacles,



Kenny Walker as a Husker.

including ones never disclosed before the his book was published.

"It was just time to tell my story," Walker said when asked why he wrote the book. "People can learn from what I have been through. They can also learn how to deal with deafness, or any other challenge, that they, or their family, might experience."

In **Roar of Silence**, Walker candidly discusses the challenges he endured as he made the difficult transition from being a pro athlete to a regular citizen. He's now a teacher, counselor, and coach at the Iowa School for the Deaf.

A native of Crane, Texas, Walker was early-deafened by spinal meningitis. He was mainstreamed in high school, where he became an outstanding football player. He was NU's first deaf recruit. A sign-language interpreter was provided as part of the package.

Walker was a top-notch defensive lineman for NU's Cornhuskers. Despite the considerable challenges in communicating during games (such as receiving last-moment alignment changes), he earned All-America honors in 1990; he was also AAAD's 1988 Athlete of the Year. He was a much-loved figure, a hero to deaf and hearing kids, a smart, hard-working player, and a good student. He majored in Fine Art at NU, maintaining a B average. He married **Martina Offenberger**, a Creighton University student, in 1992 (she was the single mother of a deaf toddler when they met in 1988), and is the father of three children.

Perhaps his most glorious moment as a player came just before his final game with the Huskers (against Colorado), in November 1990. There's a Husker tradition that all senior players are introduced to the crowd alphabetically. Fans stomp and cheer as each player jogs out onto the field. As Walker waited his turn in the stadium tunnel, he could feel the vibrations in his shoulder pads as the capacity crowd of 76,464 fans in the huge Memorial Stadium cheered each senior Husker. But when he jogged onto the field, he felt only silence. No cheering, no stomping. Puzzled, he stopped and looked up and around. The fans—*all of them*—were giving him a standing ovation with "flying hands." Kenny turned to all corners and signed back, "I love you!"

The **Omaha World-Herald** had published instructions on how to do "flying hands" (also known as "Deaf applause") in that morning's edition, for the benefit of Husker fans, and Walker's mother, **Julia**, and beloved his beloved NU interpreter, **Mimi Mann**, had made sure that he didn't see any newspapers that morning. He was preoccupied with the upcoming game, anyway. The "roar of silence" came as a total surprise.

One of a tiny handful of deaf players in NFL history, Walker was drafted by the Denver Broncos, where he played for two seasons as a defensive end before being put on waivers (that is, cut from the team). His release from the Broncos was marked by bitter feelings and a lawsuit. They claimed he was released because they wanted younger, fresher talent; he claimed that they simply didn't want to deal with a deaf player any more. He later played with three CFL teams before retiring from pro football.

At a pre-publication press conference at NU's Memorial Stadium, with Martina Walker interpreting, he said, "The book was hard to do.* What happened to us was great and very difficult. I had to accept the responsibility of being a husband and father who was out of football and still trying to accept that fact.

"I knew I needed to make a change, to face my responsibilities and to work on our marriage. I was selfish and I had to learn to love my wife and my kids again. I hope this story helps some other people. I hope the book can help deaf people—to show that there are possibilities and there are hardships. The book is my life."

Making the adjustment to post-football life is hard for every player, he said. "I had to learn to put the game aside and get on with my life. It was like I was in the middle of nowhere, wondering what was next. I had to think about more education and getting the story out that you can adjust to life after football.

"Football made a lot of things possible. It became a business and it became frustrating for me and my wife. The money goes so fast when you move around. It's something you learn in a hurry."

*Quoted in "Ex-Husker recalls life's trials in book," book review by **Ken Hambleton**, **The Lincoln Journal-Star**, August 15, 1998.

★ MEDICAL NEWS & NOTES ★

"I NEVER WANT TO EXPERIENCE IT"

Voluntary board members generally have a vested personal or professional interest in the non-profit organization they're serving. **Paul Meade** doesn't have tinnitus, nor is he a hearing-health-care professional, but he is the newly elected Chairman for the American Tinnitus Association, "I've seen the impact tinnitus has had on the lives of friends. I never want to experience it and I want to do all I can to further public awareness and hearing-protection activities, especially for youngsters," explains the 33-year-old father of two.

As Chief Financial Officer for Oregon-based Gaylord Industries, Meade looks forward to helping ATA "capitalize on the momentum developed over the past few years through EARS (the association's strategic action plan), research funding, and recent publicity." ATA's Executive Director, **Gloria E. Reich**, Ph.D., is equally optimistic and says that "the timing is right for Paul's bottom-line approach."

Completing the slate of officers elected at ATA's annual meeting on June 13, are Vice Chairman **Stephen M. Nagler**, M.D., F.A.C.S. of Atlanta, Georgia; Secretary **Megan Vidis** of Chicago, Illinois; Treasurer **Sidney C. Kleinman**, Chicago; and Strategic Planning Chairman **W.F.S. Hopmeier** of St. Louis, Missouri.

Susan J. Seidel, MA, CCC-A, of Towson, Maryland, and **Gary P. Jacobson**, Ph.D., Detroit, Michigan, were elected to board membership. Other board members are **James O. Chinnis, Jr.**, Ph.D., Manassas, Virginia; outgoing Chairman **Philip O. Morton**, Portland, Oregon; **Aaron I. Osherow**, Clayton, Missouri; **Dan Purjes**, New York, New York; and **Jack A. Vernon**, Ph.D., Portland, Oregon.

Background: ATA provides patient support, public education, professional healthcare resources, and funding of research for tinnitus (ringing in the ears or other head noises), a condition experienced by 50 million Americans. An annual tax-deductible contribution provides donors with quarterly publications, access to self-help and provider networks, and a direct role in supporting critical research. Since 1980, ATA has given over $1 million in tinnitus-research grants.

For information, contact the American Tinnitus Association, P.O. Box 5, Portland OR 97207; ☎800-634-8978 (Voice), or ✱http://www.ata.org (Web).

TINNITUS: WHAT IS IT?

Tinnitus (pronounced *tin-**NITE**-us*, from the Latin word for "ringing") is a chronic ringing or other annoying noise in the ear or head (buzzing, whistling, hissing, creaking, clicking, static, tinkling, etc.) that is experienced by 50 million Americans. An estimated 12 million have severe cases.

Exposure to loud noise is the most common cause of tinnitus, but it can also be the result of ear, neck or jaw problems, cardiovascular disease, an underactive thyroid, and allergies.

There is no known cure, but there are treatments and thousands have learned to cope with the constant or recurring sound. (One popular treatment is melatonin, a natural sleep aid.)

Some "tinnitus celebrities" include **Rosalyn Carter**, **Steve Martin**, **Leonard Nimoy**, **Tony Randall**, **William Shatner**, and **Barbra Streisand**.

★ DISABILITY ISSUES ★

THE BARRIERS: THEY'RE STILL THERE (ARE WE SURPRISED?) AND HOW TO BRING THEM DOWN (IT CAN BE DONE!)

Americans with disabilities still face barriers in securing jobs, education, accessible public transportation and in many areas of daily life, including recreation and worship. Those findings were presented in a new U.S. survey of 1,000 adults with disabilities, released on July 23 at a Washington, D.C. news conference by the National Organization on Disability.

For disability advocates, these findings are disturbing yet motivating for public and private decision-makers. The findings, commissioned by N.O.D. in cooperation with Louis Harris & Associates, define the current status of persons with disabilities in U.S. life.

The 1998 N.O.D./Harris Survey of Americans with Disabilities queried adults with disabilities early this year (with a sampling error of plus or minus 4 percentage points). This survey is the first such national poll taken by Harris in cooperation with the N.O.D. since 1994, and the third conducted by Harris since 1986.

Among the most startling findings about the workforce, the research exposed significant gaps between the employment rates of the working disabled versus the working non-disabled. Only 29% of disabled persons of working age (18-64) work full- or part-time, compared to 79% of the non-disabled population—a gap of 50 percentage points. Of those with disabilities of working age who are not working, 72% say that they would prefer to work.

Fully a third (34%) of adults with disabilities live in households with total income of $15,000 or less, compared to only 12% of those without disabilities.

Approximately one in five (20%) of adults with disabilities

have not completed high school, compared to 9% of adults with no disabilities.

N.O.D President Alan A. Reich said, "These gaps are unconscionable.° America must do better! At a time when the U.S. unemployment rate is at an historic low and there is a crying need for workers, it is astounding to learn that the employment gap remains so wide. As the survey shows, over 72% of people with disabilities out of the workforce want to work and contribute to the economy. America must remove attitudinal and physical barriers in the workplace and in all other areas of life."

Humphrey Taylor, Chairman of Louis Harris & Associates, added, "The purpose of this research is not just to measure the gaps in key life areas between people with and without disabilities, but to provide information to help close them. I anticipate that the results will be used by people both inside and outside the disability community, with the media, with corporate America, legislators, and state and federal administrators."

This survey is rich with information stemming from the answers to 145 questions on life activities considered most important to people with disabilities. Other findings include:

• Only one-third (33%) of adults with disabilities are very satisfied with life in general, compared to 61% of the non-disabled population.

• Only 7 out of 10 (69%) adults with disabilities socialize with close friends, relatives, or neighbors at least once a week, compared to more than 8 out of 10 (84%) among the non-disabled, a gap of 15 percentage points.

• About a third (33%) of adults with disabilities go to a restaurant at least once a week, compared to 6 out of 10 (60%) of those without disabilities, a gap of 27 percentage points.

• Inadequate transportation is identified as a problem by 30% of adults with disabilities. However, only 17% of non-disabled adults consider daily transportation a problem in any way, representing a gap of 13 percentage points.

What can Americans do to close these participation gaps? According to Reich, "A lot. Each of us can help eliminate the gaps in participation by finally focusing on abilities, not disabilities, of every American."

Employment

• Employers—in business, government, and public agencies, community institutions, and groups—all can examine their practices and develop strategies for seeking out and hiring people with disabilities.

• Businesses must and can implement ADA requirements for accommodations in the workplace for people with disabilities, and at reasonable cost.

• Recent business studies show that it requires on average less than $300 to accommodate a worker with, a disability.

• Home-based employment and other forms of workplace flexibility are beneficial to many workers, including the disabled. From working parents to people with disabilities, many people are taking advantage of technology advances that allow them to telecommute and still play an active role in filling the nation's growing job vacancies.

• Disability awareness and accessibility is good business. Consumers prefer to deal with businesses that address their needs. The 54 million U.S. citizens with disabilities are a prime consumer market actively courted by companies who can meet their needs.

• Use an untapped pool of talent. People with disabilities can contribute innovative and resourceful thinking to the collective knowledge of their workplaces and communities, because they face unique external challenges as they negotiate the physical world around them, as well as internal challenges to their identities as people and as members of society.

• Community groups, religious organizations, professional and trade organizations, labor unions, and service organizations can examine their practices and adopt plans for including disabled persons. Elected local leaders and officials can ensure that their communities are in full compliance with the law—the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, the Motor Voter Law, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Recreational, cultural, and sports groups and institutions should ensure full accessibility and encourage participation of disabled persons. The recent debate about Casey Martin's participation in the PGA tours highlights the bias people with

November
13-15
1998
Deaf Expo® '98
Ontario Convention Center
Ontario, California
Sprint
CALIFORNIA RELAY SERVICE
General Motors
Bank of America
Ultratec
Something For Everyone!
Deaf Stunt Bicycle Show
Deafinitely Fashion Show
Caption TV Orientation Project
Author Penny Warner Book Signing
Come To DEAF EXPO '98 And See Exhibits In Education, Finance, Giftware, Health, Human Resources, Publications, Recreation, Religion & Technology.
Entertainment: 'Deaf FlashBack' Friday night, 'Deaf Dinner Theater' Saturday night.
Full Show & Travel Information is available at www.DEAFEXPO.ORG
FOR SHOW DETAILS
Show Info Requests ..... TTY: 1-800/770-4470
Administrative/Marketing TTY: 818/764-4311
[Voice Relay 1-888-877-5379]
FAX: 818/764-4066
E-MAIL: ..... DEAFEXPO@aol.com
DEAF EXPO, 7712 Lankershim Boulevard
North Hollywood, CA 91605-2815
TRAVEL SYNDICATE
[CST #2002973-10]
Official Deaf Expo™ Travel Agency
• Special, Discounted Hotel Group Rates
• Airline bookings • Car Rentals
• Post-Deaf Expo™ Cruise to Baja Mexico
TOLL-FREE TTY: 1-877-778-7477
VOICE: 1-800-248-0388

disabilities face in the U.S.A. today. Recognize people with disabilities as positive contributors to community diversity. People with disabilities, the nation's largest minority, often are not included as a group in corporate and community planning, although they influence diversity at least as much as other minority groups. Moreover, the disability population is highly diverse within itself, and, unlike other minority groups, anyone can join in an instant.

Individuals

• Those of us with disabilities, family members and friends, can take the lead by providing guidance to others in encouraging full participation of people with disabilities in community life.

• Active involvement by people with disabilities in educational and civic life on all levels expands our awareness of how those outside the mainstream live; this allows our communities to be more thoughtfully inclusive of all differences.

• Americans must extend themselves to their fellow citizens with disabilities, and overcome their fears of the unknown. We need to become more aware of what people with disabilities can contribute; we need to respect their abilities.

Across the Nation

• The media must ensure that people with disabilities are portrayed fairly as persons engaging in public and private life. In addition, fair and accurate depictions of people with disabilities in films and television must be the standard, unlike the negative portrayals of people with disabilities in the current film ***There's Something about Mary***.

• As more people with disabilities participate in the various aspects of American life, the general population will become more informed, and they will abandon their stereotypes based on misconceptions. Attitudes will improve. The full participation of people with disabilities in an increasingly diverse American population overall will result.

• Just because we have enacted the ADA does not mean that we can rely on it to change attitudes and perceptions about America's disabled. By valuing each person for his or her abilities allows our nation to benefit globally by demonstrating democracy at its best.

Background: Founded in 1982, N.O.D. is the only national network organization concerned with all disabilities, all age groups, and all disability issues. N.O.D. receives no government funds and is supported entirely by private donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations. For more information, contact N.O.D. at ☎(202) 293-5968 (TTY) or ☎(202) 293-5960 (Voice), or visit N.O.D.'s Website at ✱http://www.nod.org.

unconscionable: (adjective) immoral; dishonest; unjust.

FOCUS ON HEALTH-CARE RIGHTS

On August 12, the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association (EPVA) sponsored its Third Annual Disability Health Care Forum, "The Rights of Consumers with Special Needs Under Managed Care," a free all-day session at the Lighthouse (111 East 59th Street) in Manhattan.

As managed care becomes increasingly prevalent in our health-care system. concerns have arisen about the quality and accessibility of care for special-needs populations, such as the elderly and those with disabilities. Federal and state officials and consumer advocates addressed the current status of patients' rights under managed care and specific applications to special-needs patients. Participants discussed current and pending city, state, and federal legislation pertaining to managed care. The forum explained individuals rights under existing legislation and looked at new proposals on the horizon.

Candidates or their representatives from the New York State Governors race and the candidates for U.S. Senate were invited to participate. Advocates spoke about consumer protection in Medicaid and Medicare and the proposed ombudsman program in New York City.

Speakers included Victor Robles, Chair. New York City Council Health Commission: Richard Gottfried, Chair of the New York State Assembly Health Committee: Susan Dooha, Director of Health Care Access, Public Policy, Gay Men's Health Crisis; Kathryn Lauterbach, Associate Director, Federal Affairs, EPVA; and Joe Baker, Associate Director, Medicare Rights Center.

WHAT'S DOING IN LOS ANGELES

(CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT EVENTS)

September 5-7

➳ The 13th annual African Marketplace and Cultural Faire, celebrating the cultural influence of the people of the African diaspora, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Rancho Cienega Park, 5001 Rodeo Road, Los Angeles. For further information, call ☎(213) 734-1164 or ☎237-1540. Fee: $3.

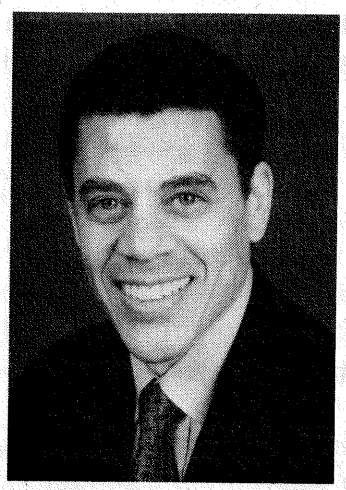
September 9

➳ *XtraZcape*, an exhibition that explores the spaces artists create by operating in between cultures. The exhibition features new work by six individual artists and two collaborative groups in new media, installation, and painting. Guest curators: Christina Fernandez and Tania Martinez Lemke. Artists: Matt Gainer, Glen Kaino and Matt Fakuda, Joo Kyoung Yoon, Michael Leon, Morales + Nuno, Brad Spence,

continued to page 24

"Our job is not only to change minds and attitudes"

FCC Chair talks about disability access



Remarks by **William E. Kennard**, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, at the 1998 Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute sponsored by American Foundation for the Blind and the American Council of the Blind, Washington, D.C., March 8, 1998

Thank you for inviting me to speak at your annual leadership conference, and thank you, Carl [Augusto], for that generous introduction.

The story of how an obscure teacher at Boston's School for the Deaf named Alexander Graham Bell changed the world with his invention is pretty well known, and no wonder.

Some of it is pretty dramatic.

The most famous event is that moment when Mr. Bell spilled some acid and said, "Watson, come here, I want you" and Watson was stunned to hear the words coming through clearly on the new machine.

There was a lot of skepticism about whether Bell's gadget would work. In London, stockbrokers couldn't figure out why somebody would want to send messages over a machine. It seemed so impersonal, they said, when you could use messenger boys.

In fact, the story of Bell's invention is a story of persistence in the face of obstacles. Its success not only took others by surprise. It surprised him, too.

Much later in life, he told Helen Keller, "The more I look at the world, the more it puzzles me. We are forever moving towards the unexpected." That is so true.

Certainly, even Bell never expected the world we have today: one where somebody in Paris can pick up a cell phone the size of a wallet and talk to somebody in Washington. Or where we can open up a laptop on a train and e-mail a speech or letter to twenty friends at once.

It makes you realize how powerless we are to predict the future.

Still, whatever lies ahead, there is no doubt that as we approach a new century and a new Millennium, extraordinary changes in technology lie ahead.

But as those advances take place, one of the challenges will be to benefit all Americans.

For how does it profit a country to build the best airplanes, or automobiles—or telephones—if those inventions can't benefit every citizen?

Nobody knows this better than the members of the American Foundation for the Blind and the American Council of the Blind. Scott Marshall, Alan Dinsmore, Paul Schroeder, and all of your officers and members work tirelessly to make sure that telecommunications services that would amaze even Alexander Graham Bell are available to people with disabilities. The American people are indebted to you. Personally, I want to thank you for your efforts—coming to the FCC, filing comments, and providing guidance on these issues.

We need to make telecommunications better. And we need to make society more inclusive.

Today I want to talk about how we should move ahead on both fronts.

I bring a special perspective to this twin re-

sponsibility.

For those of you who cannot see me, I'm African-American. I bring up my heritage because I have been profoundly influenced by, and benefitted from, the struggles that people of color have waged to promote equal opportunity in this country. Nobody handed African-Americans the rights we enjoy today. Those rights were won. In the courtrooms and the classrooms, on picket lines and cafeteria lunch lines, on Freedom Rides across the South and polling places across America, pioneers of the civil-rights movement in this country fought for those rights. They fought for equal opportunity.

And here I stand, today, on the shoulders of those pioneers, with the same message of equal opportunity for leaders in the disability-rights movement.

We cannot ignore the needs of those with disabilities. We cannot create a society that leaves out the 26 million Americans with hearing disabilities or the 9 million with sight disabilities or the 2.5 million Americans with speech disabilities.

It's just too much a part of America.

It's too important a segment of the American family.

As we look into the future, we must strive to ensure that advances in technology benefit everyone.

Along with the other FCC Commissioners, I recently got a glimpse of what that future means.

At one of our meetings we decided to show an example of what accessible telecommunications can mean. We saw a demonstration of speech-to-speech relay services—a service that allows persons with speech disabilities to use the telephone.

But it wasn't the technology that kept us mesmerized. It was Dr. Bob Segalman. Bob is a speech-to-speech pioneer. We watched Bob sit in front of us and, with his quiet breaths, whisper into a phone while a trained communications assistant relayed those words to his mother three thousand miles away.

We all understood Bob's point: that while his way of communicating might be different, his need for telephone access is no less important than anyone else's. Without speech-to-speech relay, Bob can't talk to his mother on the phone—or anyone else—which for most of us is something we probably don't think twice about. Seeing what he needed to do—what all of us on the Commission take for granted—reaffirmed the awesome responsibility we have.

It is a responsibility that must be fulfilled in two important areas: access on the one hand; education and training on the other.

Those are the two areas I want to discuss with you.

First: access.

Service providers and manufacturers no longer have the option of choosing whether to provide access to telecommunications equipment and services for people with disabilities.

It must be done.

That was mandated by Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

It is a broad mandate.

Given the fundamental role that telecommunications has come to play in today's world, Section 255 represents the most significant opportunity for people with disabilities since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990.

And at the FCC we intend to fully implement it. And I am committed as Chairman to devote the resources necessary to make it work.

To be unable to use telecommunications makes it next to impossible to get an education, to get a job—even to call 911. It forces those without access to be dependent on the rest of society.

For those reasons alone, the failure to ensure access for people with disabilities comes at great cost.

But there are other reasons, too.

After all, doesn't limiting the access for 49 million Americans deprive this country of a wealth of ideas and ability? And haven't we seen that products designed initially for consumers with disabilities also turn out to appeal to the rest of America?

Of course we have.

There are countless examples.

Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone with the intention of creating a device that would assist his wife and his mother, who both had hearing disabilities.

The typewriter—developed in Italy over 200 years ago for people who are blind. For the next 50 years, no one else was interested. But eventually, it became an everyday business tool. Over 100 years ago, a man named Herman Hollerith, who had a learning disability, was determined to organize information in a way he could understand. So, he devised the Hollerith Tabulating Machine.

The U.S. Government used the Hollerith Tabulating Machine to complete its 1890 Census. In 1924, Hollerith changed the name of his company to International Business Machines—IBM—and the rest is history.

We've seen a similar result made recently with closed-captioning. At first designers saw it only as a tool for people with hearing disabilities.

Now, it's an educational tool used to improve reading comprehension. Immigrants use it to learn English. We see captioning in the gym, in airports, and even on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Speech-recognition devices were originally designed for fighter pilots. Now you can buy them off-the-shelf. And the software is an important access tool for persons with spinal-cord injuries and repetitive-stress injuries.

All this is why, when we announce our implementation plan for Section 255, one of the things I want to do is provide incentives° for industry to consider disability issues at the front end of the development and design process—and on an ongoing basis.

Industry must be a partner in providing access. It will do that best when it has the flexibility to be innovative.

In fact, we're seeing one example of that at this conference: the test of Pocketalk by Motorola and CONXUS.

Pocketalk is a talking pager that receives completely private messages in the caller's own voice.

It's a great convenience. No need to find a telephone to call back and check messages—not any more. That's a boon not only to people with visual disabilities, but also to those who have trouble getting to a telephone.

You know, for many years, people who wear hearing aids couldn't use telephones.

The solution to this problem was relatively simple: insert a T-coil in the handset. But it took an Act of Congress to require all telephone manufacturers to install this simple feature in all handsets—the Hearing Aid Compatibility Act.

Why should we need legislation in a case like that? My hope is that Section 255 will encourage manufacturers and engineers to install accessibility features voluntarily and at the design stage. That's their job.

But how do we know that industry is doing its job?

That's where you come in.

The telecommunications industry already relies heavily upon consumer and disability-policy organizations such as yours to provide guidance on the design of accessible telecommunications services and equipment. Organizations such as the Association of Access Engineering Specialists, for example, are now working on design and development issues.

I urge you and others in the disability community to continue working with the industry.

And I hope that you'll continue to work with the FCC as well. A lot of people at the Commission are working hard on that implementation plan. We need your insight and suggestions.

As the FCC moves to implement 255, we're moving to make some additional changes that will help make it easier for people with disabilities to contribute.

Soon, the Commission will begin allowing electronic comments to be filed in FCC rulemakings, using the World Wide Web and electronic mail. I want to mention the electronic-filing proceeding, because I know that electronic documents (in ASCII format) are often compatible with the various assistive technologies that people with disabilities use. In addition to breaking down

print barriers that prevent persons with disabilities to fully participate in our rulemaking process, electronic filing will also reduce the costs and complications from paper filings. I am eager to see the Commission find more ways to make our processes more accessible to you, as well as to all Americans.

One other issue that I would like the Commission to explore is video description. As you know, video description can help television come alive for people with sight disabilities. I believe that the Commission should explore whether providing video-description services should be an element of broadcasters' public-interest obligations.

The FCC is immeasurably aided in this work by the Disabilities Issues Task Force, whose current Director is Meryl Icove, and Deputy Director, Pam Gregory. Meryl is out of town today, but Pam Gregory is here. For those of you who don't know Pam and Meryl, I hope that you will get to know them. They work tirelessly on your behalf and the Commission and I rely on them immensely.

My predecessor, Reed Hundt, created the Disabilities Issues Task Force in 1995. Reed fought hard to ensure that people with disabilities gained a voice at the FCC. He forged a strong relationship with the disability community. And I am proud to continue this partnership with the disability community and with your organizations.

The Task Force is made up of representatives in every Bureau and Office within the Commission so that the priority of access for persons with disabilities will permeate in all our processes. And, it really makes a difference. But one of my goals as Chairman is for all of the FCC staff—and not just the Task Force members—to initiate access concerns automatically. Thinking about these issues should become second nature to everyone working at the FCC. Our work must expand well beyond our dedicated Task Force members. That is my goal as Chairman.

I want the FCC to become a more accessible, more user-friendly place for people with disabilities. I want advocates for the disability community to feel at least as welcome and knowledgeable about the FCC as the lobbyists for large telecommunications companies do.

That's why our Task Force reaches out so aggressively to disability organizations. We want you to find it easy to express your concerns to the Commission. And we want to meet those concerns.

So far, I've talked about access. Access to the Commission. Access to the rulemaking process. And access to telecommunications.

Now I want to talk about education and training.

There is simply no industry in America with the opportunity for well-paying jobs like telecommunications.

None.

The U.S. needs 1.3 million new workers in information technology by 2006. The hi-tech industry was the single largest industry in the United States in 1996.

People with disabilities can and should fill many of those jobs.

After all, is there any doubt—any at all—that they can compete, and are even pace-setters, in the world of science and technology? Whether Stephen Hawking, perhaps the world's most famous scientist—who has Lou Gehrig's disease, or Vint Cerf, the father of the Internet—who has a hearing disability, or thousands of less-known examples, that myth has been disproved long ago.

The fact is, that if we do things right, the burgeoning° world of telecommunications should make it easier for those with disabilities to have meaningful, well-paid jobs. More and more, people will not have to hop in a car and drive twenty miles to the office. They'll be able to work at home.

More and more, the jobs in the 21st Century will belong not to those who use their brawn but their brain.

Some colleges have already recognized what's coming. More and more universities offer computer science and engineering programs with classes in universal design. They know the op-

portunity this offers to those who until now have been shut out.

In fact, in order for Section 255 to be effective, the industry must have engineers and product designers ready to meet the demands of Section 255. What better opportunity can there be for engineers with disabilities— people with first-hand knowledge about the problems we urgently need to fix?

Access.

Training.

Education.

Issues of vital importance to this country.

Sometimes people can forget that the decisions made in government offices influence lives.

But that's the most rewarding thing that we do.

We help people like Susan, a high-school student with quadriplegia who has become adept at surfing the Internet through an eye-gaze laser that acts as a mouse. Susan can't pick up a book physically. But she can select any book she wants. She can turn the pages herself. She can skip to the back of the book to see how it ends. And the Internet can take her to places that she could not otherwise visit.

And we help people like Scott, who is blind, and attends a high school in Georgia for gifted students. Scott used to spend hours every day studying Spanish. But then, his school connected to the Internet. Now he uses assistive technologies to access online Spanish-English dictionaries. That has reduced his time studying Spanish to 25 minutes a day. Now Scott can use that extra two-and-a-half hours to conquer Shakespeare, physics, and international affairs.

That is the meaning of our work. And for me, the legacy of my years as Chairman will be how many thousands of people like Susan and Scott we can help. And I need your help. You must help us make decisions. You must serve as our conscience.

Helen Keller once wrote, "It is as easy to look at stars as at cobblestones."°

Of course, she could see neither. But that never limited her imagination or constrained her intelligence.

My grandfather was a brilliant man. He was gifted in arts and literature. He wrote beautiful prose. And he was self-taught. He could recite the works of Shakespeare. He had a wonderful mind. And he had endless potential. But do you know what he did for a living? He was a janitor. His barrier to access to greater opportunity was the color of his skin.

I often think of him. I think of how much more he could have contributed to his society if only his society had allowed him to reach the fullness of his own potential. I think of how different his life might have been had he been born a generation later.

But even today, in our generation, the potential of millions of Americans is wasted because they are denied access—access to technology; to opportunity; to education. The law gives us tools to unlock this great potential. I have talked about some of those legal tools today.

But let us never forget that our mission is not only to change regulations. We know that it takes more than a regulation to compel people to see past differences and disabilities—to see the inherent value in every person.

So our job is not only to change regulation, it is to change minds; to change attitudes; to change perceptions. It is to work toward a world in which all of our fellow citizens embrace diversity and recognize the potential and ability and value of every human being.

That is our mission. I feel very honored and privileged that as Chairman of the FCC I can join you in this mission. And I am here to promise you today, that so long as I am Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, your voices will be heard.

Thank you.

incentives: (*noun, plural*) encouragement; impetus. Here, something that helps motivate industry to produce better and more accessible products and services.

burgeoning: (*adjective*) rapidly growing; increasing; flourishing; booming.

brawn: (*noun*) physical strength; well-developed muscles.

cobblestones: rounded stones used for paving streets in the days before asphalt and concrete; still used in Europe and a few places in the U.S.

SECTION 255:

WHAT IS IT TO YOU?

FCC to telecommunications companies: Get moving!

On April 2, the Federal Communications Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to implement Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the most significant governmental action for people with disabilities since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Section 255 is one of the key provisions of the Telecommunications Act promoting the goal of universal access, and seeks to increase the accessibility of telecommunications services and equipment to the 54 million Americans with disabilities.

When the NPRM is released, it will be available on the FCC's Internet homepage site at ✷http://www.fcc.gov or the Disability Issues Task Force home page at ✷http://www.fcc.gov/dtf/

Contact **Martha E. Contee**, Chief, Public Service Division, Office of Public Affairs, at ☎(202) 418-2555 (TTY), ☎(202) 418-0260 (Voice), or ❖mcontee@fcc.gov (E-mail).

Report No. WT 98-10 WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACTION April 2, 1998

FCC PROPOSES RULES TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT TO AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES (WT Docket No. 96-198)

Today the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to implement Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("the Act"). Section 255 represents the most significant governmental action for people with disabilities since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. It is one of the key provisions of the Act promoting the goal of universal access and seeks to increase the accessibility of telecommunications services and equipment to the 54 million Americans with disabilities.

In Section 255, Congress set forth a broad but practical mandate: telecommunications service providers and equipment manufacturers must make their services and equipment accessible to people with disabilities, to the extent that it is readily achievable to do so. Congress gave responsibilities both to the Commission and the Architectural and Transportation Barrier Compliance Board ("Access Board"), an independent federal agency whose primary mission is promoting accessibility for persons with disabilities. The Access Board, in conjunction with the Commission, was responsible for developing guidelines for equipment accessibility. The Commission is responsible for the overall implementation and enforcement of access requirements for both telecommunications services and equipment.

The NPRM proposes to adopt key substantive requirements of the Access Board's guidelines, which were released in February 1998. It also draws extensively from comments the Commission received in response to its Notice of Inquiry, issued in September 1996.

Under the rules proposed today, companies will be given a great deal of flexibility concerning how they carry out the mandate. They are responsible for ensuring that their products are accessible to persons with the full range of disabilities recognized under the ADA, to the extent that it is readily achievable to do so, but the Commission does not propose to prescribe de-

tailed implementation rules that companies must follow.

For companies who need guidance on how to make their products accessible, the Commission does propose processes that it would expect companies to undertake to meet their obligations under Section 255. Under the proposal, companies would be expected to have processes in place that ensure the consideration of accessibility issues at the beginning of the design and development process and on an ongoing basis. These would be internal processes as well as outreach efforts to disabilities groups. Companies would assess whether it is readily achievable to make their products accessible to the full range of disabilities, and if not, why not.

The Commission proposes to adopt the ADA definition of readily achievable, which is "easily accomplishable and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense." The Commission also proposes to analyze whether a particular telecommunications accessibility feature is "readily achievable" based on feasibility, expense, and practicality.

The Commission believes that by having incentives in place for companies to consider accessibility issues early and on an ongoing basis, it can significantly reduce the number of complaints that it will receive. Furthermore, the Commission will encourage any consumer who has not contacted the company in an attempt to resolve a problem to do so before filing a complaint with the FCC.

The NPRM proposes adoption of a "fast track" process for Section 255 complaints. The Commission believes that the fast-track approach will resolve many accessibility problems informally, providing consumers rapid relief and enabling manufacturers and service providers to apply their resources to solving access problems rather than subjecting them to burdensome procedural requirements. The Commission proposes that more traditional enforcement processes will be used in cases where companies do not comply with Section 255.

Once the NPRM is released, it will be available on the FCC's Internet home page at ✷http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/. It can also be accessed through the FCC's Disabilities Issues Task Force web site at ✷http://www.fcc.gov/dtf. Once the NPRM is released, if you are interested in getting it in an alternative format, please contact the FCC's Office of Public Affairs, Public Service Division at ☎(202) 418-2555 (TTY) ☎(202) 418-0260 (Voice), or e-mail at ❖psd@fcc.gov (E-mail).

To file electronic comments in this proceeding, you may use the electronic filing interface available on the FCC's World Wide Web site at ✷http://dettifoss.fcc.gov:8080/cgi-bin/ws.exe/beta/ecfs/upload.hts. Further information on the process of submitting comments electronically is available at that location and at ✷http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/.

Action by the Commission, April 2, 1998, by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 98-55). Chairman Kennard, Commissioners Ness, Furchtgott-Roth, Powell, and Tristani with Chairman Kennard, Commissioners Furchtgott-Roth, Powell, and Tristani issuing separate statements.
—FCC

"I pledge to commit the resources, staff, and training to give meaning to this mandate—and to ensure that no American is left behind"

Statement of Chairman William E. Kennard
In the Matter of Implementation of Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

Section 255 represents the most significant opportunity for people with disabilities since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. We cannot overstate its importance to the 54 million Americans with disabilities. To be unable to use telecommunications makes it next to impossible to get a job, call 911, things many of us take for granted.

For this reason alone, the failure to ensure access for people with disabilities comes at great cost. After all, limiting access for 54 million Americans deprives this country of a wealth of

ideas and ability. However, there is another important benefit that comes from this proceeding: we all are better off as our society becomes more and more accessible. We all benefit when people with disabilities become active in our communities and in society as a whole. In addition, curb cuts, speaker phones, and vibrating pagers, things we all now take for granted, were all originally designed as "disability solutions."

Section 255 mandates that telecommunications service providers and equipment manufacturers make their products accessible to people with disabilities, if it is readily achievable to do so. In complying with this mandate, I want industry to focus its resources on achieving the end goal: getting as many accessible products in the hands of consumers as possible. I understand that flexibility helps companies to innovate, and innovation will yield the most accessible products.

For companies needing guidance on how to make their products accessible, this NPRM proposes processes that we would expect companies to undertake to meet their obligations. Companies should have processes in place to ensure the consideration of accessibility issues at the beginning of their design and development process—and on an ongoing basis. These should include internal processes as well as outreach efforts to disabilities groups. Companies should assess whether it is readily achievable to make their products accessible to the full range of disabilities, including those affecting hearing, vision, movement, manipulation, speech, and interpretation of information.

I hope that by having incentives in place for companies to consider accessibility issues on an early and ongoing basis we can significantly reduce the number of complaints that reach us. I also hope that consumers and companies will attempt to work out accessibility problems before we get involved, and we will encourage consumers who have not contacted their equipment or services providers to do so.

But once we do get a complaint, we should treat it as a high priority. Today we are proposing a special "fast track" process for Section 255 complaints, designed to resolve many accessibility complaints informally and providing consumers quick solutions and freeing manufacturers and service providers from the burden of more structured complaint resolutions. We will not hesitate to use our more traditional enforcement processes, however, in cases in which our fast-track procedures do not result in solutions. And let me be clear: given the importance of Section 255, we propose to employ the full range of penalties available to us under the Communications Act to enforce Section 255 wherever necessary to ensure compliance.

Finally, I want to emphasize that the implementation of Section 255 is a priority of the Commission's and a personal priority for me. I pledge to commit the resources, staff, and training to give meaning to this mandate—and to ensure that no American is left behind in the telecommunications revolution.

"The benefits significantly outweigh the costs"
Separate Statement of Commissioner Harold W. Furchtgott-Roth
In re: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

Implementation of Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996— Access to Telecommunications Service, Telecommunications Equipment, and Customer Premises Equipment by Persons with Disabilities

Today we initiate a proceeding to adopt rules to implement yet another important section of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. I support this action.

In this proceeding, the Commission will develop new rules to enable persons with disabilities to participate in the telecommunications revolution that has become such an important facet of our society and economy. I look forward to adopting these rules later this year.

My support for new regulations may be somewhat surprising, for I have the well-deserved reputation of one who often favors de-regulation. A more accurate characterization of my views,

however, is that I favor rational regulation. This rationality is achieved only when the benefits of our rules significantly outweigh the costs of our rules.

Undoubtedly, the new rules we eventually adopt in this proceeding will impose some costs on industry and consumers. Nevertheless, I am confident that, in meeting the requirements of the Telecommunications Act, we will adopt rules that have benefits that significantly exceed these costs. In addition, this particular area of regulation may well be a rare instance of where the involvement of federal government introduces efficiencies unlikely to develop in the market. Thus, we have here an opportunity for rational regulation and an appropriate role for the federal government.

"I fully expect (and will demand) that every industry participant will comply with the letter and the spirit of this law"

Separate Statement of Commissioner Michael Powell

Re: Implementation of Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996—Access to Telecommunications Services, Telecommunications Equipment, and Customer Premises Equipment by Persons with Disabilities, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (WT Docket No. 9~198)

It is the law, and should be the law, that manufacturers of telecommunications equipment and customer premises equipment (CPE) and providers of telecommunications services shall ensure that such equipment and services are accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. If accessibility is not "readily achievable," manufacturers and service providers are required to ensure that their equipment or service is compatible with existing peripheral devices or specialized customer premises equipment commonly used by individuals with disabilities to achieve access. It is the Commission's job (exclusively) to enforce this law, which Congress in its wisdom included in the historic 1996 Telecommunications Act.

It is only right that Congress included this provision (section 255) in the Act. It understood that as it unleashed a largely unregulated and highly competitive telecommunications industry, it needed to ensure that people with disabilities were not strewn aside in the battle for customers and subscribers. It is only right that manufacturers and service providers should be ready, willing, and able to step up to welcome and accept this task to ensure that a significant portion of their customers are properly accommodated—without the need for significant government intrusion into their businesses. And, it is only right that this Commission must set forth rules, guidelines and enforcement procedures so that the industry and, especially, individuals with disabilities, know how to comply with the law and what to expect from the agency tasked to enforce it.

I fully expect (and will demand) that every industry participant will comply with the letter and the spirit of this law. I know that this is an area where free market forces alone are unlikely to address the specific needs of individuals, who solely because of life's unpredictability and randomness find themselves restricted by physical adversity. This is an area where government can help this community enjoy the fruits of independence that the seeds of telecommunications can yield and that the Act envisioned. The principle of universal service is ultimately inclusion, and the disabled community should not be overlooked.

I know personally the frustrations of being relegated to the outskirts of "normal" society because of the inability to access the necessary instruments of daily life, for I suffer from physical limitations that resulted from a serious Jeep accident. I recall vividly the feelings of helplessness brought on by the inability to help myself with basic life functions. I recall during my year-long convalescence, preferring the hospital over my home: home was the real world of difficult stairways to navigate, rather than the ramps of the hospital, it was bathrooms that were a nightmare to get to and use, and it was

inhospitable beds and chairs. It was a place where I watched fully functional people move easily in and out of every day, living normal unencumbered lives. I can easily imagine how it must feel to be unable to even make a phone call.

As the Commission seeks to accommodate the needs of the disabled, however, we must be careful in our zeal not to stigmatize those that section 255 was designed to help, and we must be careful to avoid creating disincentives for those in industry that actually can help. This is why I strongly support the proposed "fast-track" problem solving process and guiding principles laid out in this Notice. This process emphasizes timely and informal resolution, with the promise that the vast majority of accessibility problems will be resolved by the manufacturer or service provider without the need for resort to formal "complaints."

I look forward to reviewing the comments in this proceeding and welcome any and all suggestions on how the Commission can improve upon the enforcement procedures we propose so that this important law we are tasked with enforcing will be subject to the fullest compliance.

"Real, meaningful telecommunications access . . . is long overdue"

Statement of Commissioner Gloria Tristani on the Adoption of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Access to Telecommunications Services, Telecommunications Equipment, and Customer Premises Equipment by Persons with Disabilities

Today we take concrete steps to assure that the tremendous benefits of the telecommunications sector will be available to people with disabilities. Telecommunications is at the core of our society—it is, increasingly, how we communicate with one another, how we learn, how we work. To be denied access to those activities would be, in essence, to be relegated to the sidelines of our national life. Congress wisely acknowledged this in enacting Section 255, mandating that telecommunications services and equipment be accessible to people with disabilities, where readily achievable.

I firmly believe that few actions we take as commissioners could be as important as those promoting real, meaningful access to telecommunications for all Americans. So we have worked, for example, to facilitate access for people in rural and high cost areas, to connect our schools and libraries' and to guarantee that wireless callers—including TTY users—have the benefit of E-911 services.

In my mind, this NPRM is long overdue. I believe that the guidelines and procedural rules we propose will have substantial impact in the lives of the 54 million Americans with disabilities. Imagine, for example, the frustration felt by someone using a voice board (an augmentative or alternative communications device) when they call emergency or directory assistance (911 or 411), only to be disconnected because the person answering does not understand that this is a real call. Imagine someone with cerebral palsy or multiple sclerosis, who then faces the prospect of using a TTY device, yet may not have the manual dexterity necessary to do so. Imagine doing that in an emergency.

These are striking examples. But they portend larger social and economic realities. Unemployment among people with disabilities is roughly 73 percent. And those who are employed earn on average only one-third the income of the non-disabled population. In our world today, access to telecommunications services and equipment translates into opportunity and participation.

I am committed to doing all I can to make that access happen. Today we set forth a number of proposals, relating to both the substantive mandates of Section 255 and the procedures for enforcing it. I believe we have proposed a workable framework for cooperation and creativity in finding innovative access solutions. I recognize that this is a beginning, and I look forward to working with both industry and consumers to build on this framework.

Poems & Verse

WHY GOD GAVE US HANDS

(a poem about Sign Language)

Many people think God gave us hands to write,
To type on a typewriter or go fly a kite.
To throw a Frisbee or bounce a basketball,
To shovel snow in the winter or rake leaves in the fall.

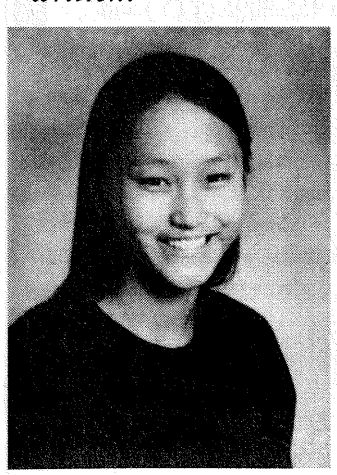
To hold a pillow tight or play a guitar,
To paint on a canvas or drive a car.
But if you listen to my hands then you will know,
God gave us hands to share, think, and grow.

To communicate with others and show them a world they never knew was there,
That using your voice isn't the only way to say what you feel or show that you care.
If you listen to my hands you can open your eyes,
And things'll become clear that were once in disguise.

Learn the language that can teach you to soar,
To open your mind and show us what we're living for.
To express the secret language of love, to give without demands,
And this is the reason God gave us hands.

—Kim Hartman
Jupiter, Florida

✏ *Sandy Pait of West Palm Beach, Florida, is a certified interpreter and has been teaching ASL to hearing high-school students. This past Spring, she sent us a group of poems written by Kim Hartman, one of her students. We plan to publish them as an informal series. Says Pait, "Kim is an excellent student, but more importantly, she is a kind and sensitive human being. I think you will agree when you read what she has written."*



Hartman, 16, a native of Seoul, South Korea, is a 10th-grader at Jupiter High School, and works as an accounting clerk. Her interests include music, movies, tennis, and poetry. She writes:

What ASL means to me: I never really knew why God gave us hands until I began learning ASL. ASL means inspiration, motivation, touching my heart, pride, abstract thinking, and teaching me to soar.

My first word: My mother used to be a speech-language pathologist, and when I was younger I wasn't talking at the age I should have. So she started signing to me. My first word was "I love you" in Sign Language. I eventually learned to talk, but I'll never forget that first precious sign I learned.

CLASSIFIED

Mill Neck Services Job Development Program

Are you Deaf or Hard of Hearing? Are you looking for work? Mill Neck Service's Job Development Program can help you obtain employment. Please contact our agency at ☎(516) 922-3334 (TTY) or ☎(516) 922-3818 (Voice).

Sign Language Interpreters

Need a Sign Language Interpreter for special events? Contact Mill Neck Services Interpreter Referral at ☎(516) 922-3334 (TTY) or ☎(516) 922-3818 (Voice).

♥ ♥ MALE SEEKS FEMALE ♥ ♥

Lonely Polish bachelor, well adjusted DEAF'ie. Fantastic personality, 5', 4", 155 lbs. Age 60, appears 50-ish, feels 30-ish. Artistic, inventive, good cook. Emotionally-financially, flaky. I'm not a weekly churchgoer, but am religious. Seeks Catholic, Caucasian or Oriental woman. A homebody, knowledge of ASL a definite plus. Should be a little smaller and shorter than me. Must help with living expenses. No drug users, alcoholics, or gamblers, please. Contact: Frank 'ski, 4022 West Montrose Avenue, Box #114, Chicago, IL 60641-2140.

Rates: 30 words or less, $20.00. 25¢ per additional word. All classifieds **must** be prepaid; please enclose check or money order with submission. All information must be **typed** or **printed**. Illegible submissions or those without spaces between words will not be accepted. Deadline for submission is 1st of the month for the following month. We reserve the right to edit or reject any submission.

Glen Wilson, Victoria Vesna. Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park, 4800 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles. Reception: September 11, 6-9 p.m. ☎(213) 485-4581. (Through November 1.)

➳ *Night Vision*, an exhibition that brings together five artists whose work is drawn from their dreams. Curator: Michael Lewis Miller. Junior Arts Center Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park. Reception: September 11, 6-9 p.m. ☎(213) 485-4581. (Through November 1.)

September 11

➳ Reception for *Xtrascape*, 6-9 p.m., Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-4581.

➳ Reception for *Night Vision*, 6-9 p.m. Junior Arts Center Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-4581.

September 19

➳ *Collaborations/Katherine Diamond, F.A.I.A.*, the last exhibition in the *Collaborations* series of lectures and exhibitions. The exhibit shows the work Diamond has done in collaboration with local artists. Hollyhock House, Barnsdall Art Park. Exhibitions are open only during scheduled tours of Hollyhock House (Wednesday to Sunday, 12, 1, 2 and 3 p.m.). ☎(213) 913-4157. (Through November 22.)

September 25

➳ *Night Readings*, a series of readings by poets and writers, program to be announced, 7-8:30 p.m. Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park. Nominal admission charge for adults; free to children. ☎(213) 485-4581.

BITS & PIECES

☞ **Area-code correction**: We've been informed that the TTY and Voice numbers for the Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women, as printed in the June **Plus**, p. 18, bottom of the righthand column) are incorrect. The area code was incorrectly listed as "913." The correct area code is 213. LACAAW's numbers are ☎(213) 955-9095 (TTY) and ☎(213) 955-9090, extension 105 (Voice). Thanks to LACAAW for calling this to our attention. We regret the error and apologize for any inconvenience it caused readers who tried to contact LACAAW. (913 is the area code for northeastern Kansas, including Topeka, Shawnee Mission, and Olathe. Oops!)

Deaf Life plus